

Old City quarter on its guard for Jerusalem battle

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Conquerors of the Holy Land have come and gone but within walls inside the walled Old City lives an ancient Christian community which has survived the tumultuous history of Jerusalem.

Ahead of the battle for Jerusalem that holds the key to the success of the whole Arab-Israeli peace process, the Armenians hope their traditional neutrality and lack of political ambition will serve as their best defence.

The Armenians, numbering only 3,000 to 4,000 in Israel and the Palestinian territories, have a quarter of their own in the annexed Old City, covering a sixth of some of the most coveted land in the world.

"We have lived through far more precarious times over the centuries," said Patriarch Torkom Manoukian.

"But, of course, changes may come after the final scene of the peace process. In politics, there is no morality, so you cannot tell what the final course of events will be."

A successful businessman said that since Israel seized East Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1967, it has always been "a delicate balancing act" for the Armenians. "In general, we try to keep our distance from both sides," he said.

During the intifada which raged from 1987 up until 1994 when Palestinian autonomy was launched, the walled Armenian monastery which gave refuge to 1915 genocide survivors and is now home to 100 families was considered a haven.

The only time the Palestinian uprising did penetrate the compound was in August 1991 when the Armenians had their own "martyr", 17-year-old Arslan Golezian, shot dead by Israeli troops during a protest.

The body of Arslan, a member of the Fateh Hawks in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) main faction, was smuggled in for burial from the West Bank town of Ramallah, recalls writer Kevork Hintian.

In the religious sweepstakes of Jerusalem, the

Armenians have held on to their equal status with the Greek Orthodox and the Latins as custodians of Christian sites in the Holy Land.

"We, seven million Armenians, have the same rights as the world's 800 million Catholics and 500 million Orthodox," said Bishop Guregh Kapikian, who pointed out that Armenia was the first Christian state.

After the fall of Jerusalem in 1187 and defeat of the Crusaders, Saladin expelled all Christians save the Armenians, who were among the earliest pilgrims to Jerusalem.

The patriarchate, which has a beautiful church of countless lamps where tourists come to hear the chanted liturgy, dates back to the 7th century. In 1432, Mameluke Sultan Chaghaq granted it a symbolic tax-free status.

"We had no political aspirations and no empire behind us," said the 76-year-old patriarch, seated on an armchair which happened to have a T-shirt of the Karabakh conflict draped across the back.

There have been some exceptions, such as in more recent times. In a house-with an idyllic courtyard among the maze of cobbled pavements and low tunnels lives Albert Agazarian of Bir Zeit university who was a spokesman in the Palestinian delegation at the October 1991 Madrid peace conference.

All is not always rosy behind the gates of the Saint James monastery, where an unarmed guard closes off the outside world at 10 p.m.

Some tenants complained the church, as the landlord of the whole Armenian Quarter, meddled too much in sensitive issues of key money for sale of leases. Forty per cent of proceeds go to the patriarchate and 60 per cent to the tenant.

The basic principle is to keep property in Armenian hands, just like the Jews, Muslims and other Christians in the larger three quarters of the Old City at the focus of religious rivalries through the ages.



BLAST VICTIMS: Wounded Israeli soldiers arrive by helicopter to a Haifa hospital after they were injured in a bomb attack in South Lebanon on Sunday. Six soldiers were killed and a seventh was injured in the attack, claimed by the Hizbollah group (see page one). The face of the air force man is blackened in line with Israeli censorship rules (AFP photo)

Self-rule deal means bitter harvest for olive farmers

DEIR SHARAF, The West Bank (AFP) — On a hillside overlooking the village of Deir Sharaf two Palestinians gathered in their olive crops fearing it would be for the last time following Israel's confiscation of their lands.

Saleh Yassin and Adel Massoud own five hectares (12 acres) of land planted with 1,000 olive trees in the north of the West Bank.

But the land has been seized by the Israelis to build an eight kilometre (five mile) road linking the two neighbouring Jewish settlements of Shaveh Shomeron and Elon Moreh.

Dozens of hectares have been confiscated by Israeli authorities with the tacit approval of the Palestinian Authority to build special roads to allow settlers to

bypass Palestinian towns once the Israeli army pulls out of the West Bank under the Sept. 28 autonomy deal.

"The military administration notified me a month ago that my land was being confiscated because the diversionary road would cross it," Mr. Yassin, 55, said.

Already some of his trees have been torn up by Israeli bulldozers which began to level the land three weeks ago.

But Mr. Yassin complained Israel had seized all his land, the sole source of income for this father of four, although the road was only going to cross it at a specific point.

"I won't give up a single olive tree, and I will continue to work my land until the

Israeli soldiers kill me," he said.

He also blamed the Palestinian self-rule authority saying they had turned a deaf ear to his pleas. "They simply told us that the construction of diversionary roads was part of the autonomy accords."

"The lands of my father and grandfather in Haifa were confiscated and now they want to deprive me of my livelihood in the West Bank."

A geographer from the Society of Arab Studies in East Jerusalem, Khalil Tufajli, estimates that a total of 250 hectares of land has been taken by Israel to build the roads envisaged by the accord to spread autonomy across the West Bank signed in Washington on Sept. 28.

He said about 45 kilometres of road was in the middle of being built to bypass Palestinian areas.

Adel Massoud, 43, was also angry at the seizure of his three hectares (seven acres) of land as he toiled under the fierce sun.

"I would have preferred them to take one of my sons, but not my olive trees."

Since he was a child he has worked the land gathering olives which ripen at the start of autumn.

"But the leaders of the Palestinian Authority who I have called just don't want to know."

Muslim militant held

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Muslim militant leader has been arrested on charges of slander against His Majesty King Hussein, the Associated Press reported yesterday quoting family and judicial sources.

Atta Abu Risteh, 51, a spokesman for the Hezb Al Tahrir, or Liberation Party, was detained Saturday in his office in Russeifa, 27 kilometres south-east of Amman.

"Police arrested him in broad daylight and we haven't been able to find out where he is and what the charges against him are," the AP quoted Mr. Abu Risteh's wife, who declined to give her name in line with Muslim custom, as saying.

A judicial source, who insisted on anonymity, said Mr. Abu Risteh admitted during interrogation that he had criticised the King and rebuked the monarch again

in an interview with the Arabic language Al Hiwar weekly, the AP report said.

"Abu Risteh has been charged with belonging to an illegal organisation and slandering His Majesty the King," the judicial source said. Slander against the Royal family is a violation of the law and is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

Mr. Abu Risteh has frequently been arrested over the last 10 years allegedly for militant activities and affiliation with Hezb Al Tahrir, a predominantly Palestinian group formed in the West Bank in the 1950s.

The outlawed group is a puritanical faction which does not recognise any existing Arab or Muslim regimes and seeks to establish a Muslim caliphate-style state through revolution.

1.3m signatories for Zeroual's candidacy

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has acquired nearly 1.3 million signatures backing his candidacy for the upcoming presidential poll, his office said Monday.

It said that the 1,284,326 signatures were gathered nationwide in 1,541 electoral districts in which he is the favourite among the four candidates to face off in the first round on Nov. 16.

The other three candidates vying for the post are Mahfoud Nabhah, of the Islamic Society Movement (MST) party, Said Sadi of the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) party and Nourredine Boukrouh of the Algerian Renewal Party (PRA).

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi told the daily Al Moudjahid Monday that 14 million people were expected to cast their ballots in the first elections since the country plunged into violence in January 1992 after the military intervened to cancel the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Mr. Sifi stressed that tightened security would be put in place around polling stations so that "nothing can prevent citizens from accomplishing their electoral duty."

"There will be security but citizens must be aware that our best weapon is prevention," Mr. Sifi said. "I have

faith in the will of the people not to allow terrorists to scotch this vote and I have faith in the work being done by the security services to protect the elections."

He said 370,000 security officers will be deployed around the 32,000 polling stations. The country's military reservists have also been recalled.

The election will be monitored by 100 observers from the Arab League, the Organisation for African Unity and the United Nations.

On Monday, former Prime Minister Redha Malek challenged a decision by the Constitutional Council barring him from running in the election and asserted that he had gathered 76,194 signatures, more than the 75,000 needed to qualify.

The Constitutional Council did not give a reason for disqualifying Mr. Malek, a decision he cannot appeal.

The electoral campaign for the four candidates running is set to begin on Sunday. Algerian security forces have shot dead 60 guerrillas over the last week in an operation in seventeen villages and towns, the Algerian official news agency APS said on Sunday quoting an official statement.

Nine among the 60 rebels killed between Monday and Sunday were killed in the capital Algiers, said the statement.

The others were killed in separate operations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt signs satellite deal with French firm

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt on Sunday signed a contract with a French consortium led by Matra Marconi Espace to build the country's first television satellite, the official news agency MENA said. The 1.8-tonne satellite, costing \$158 million will be launched in early 1997, the information ministry said. The contract includes the construction of two reception stations at Cairo and the Mediterranean city of Alexandria and the launch of the satellite by the French firm Arianeespace. MENA said the satellite, which will provide 16 television channels, would "protect the Arab nation from the foreign media invasion." It would mainly serve the Arab region but could also cover Africa, other Islamic countries such as the former Soviet republics in central Asia, as well as Europe and America.

Don't pay into car park meters in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Iranian traffic police, unhappy about not being consulted over newly-erected parking meters, have told motorists not to put coins in them, a Tehran newspaper said on Sunday. "Tehran citizens are requested to avoid putting coins in the newly established parking meters in the streets of Tehran," said the Iran Daily, quoting a police statement. No one would be fined for not paying into parking meters until further notice, the paper said. Tehran city officials have placed numerous parking meters all over the Iranian capital. A traffic expert told the daily the newly made meters did not comply with police regulations, were not standardised and were placed in parts of the city where they were unnecessary. "Police, who are experts on matters related to traffic, must be consulted before city officials make any decisions in this regard," the paper said.

Earthquake rocks southern Iran

TEHRAN (AFP) — An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale hit a large part of southern Iran on Monday, the official IRNA news agency reported. The agency gave no report of any casualties or damage from the tremor which struck the Gulf region of Bandar-Langeh. Another earthquake measuring 4.8 jolted the northern Gilan province off the Caspian Sea on Sunday. According to an official figure published Monday, around 100,000 people have died in earthquakes in Iran in the past 25 years.

India denies charge of helping Rabbani

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian officials denied on Monday charges by Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto that New Delhi was fuelling Afghanistan's bloody war but admitted Indian planes had carried food and medicine supplies there.

Indian officials told Reuters that Ms. Bhutto's claim that Indian planes were landing regularly at Kabul's Bagram air base was exaggerated.

Taliban fighters advanced to the gates of Kabul last week in a major offensive against Afghan government forces. Both sides traded artillery fire near Kabul on Sunday, but the battle for the capital seemed temporarily deadlocked, witnesses said.

"We do, sometimes, send medicines and food supplies, but there is certainly no intention of providing military hardware," a senior Indian official said.

Televised excerpts of Ms. Bhutto's address to Pakistani editors on Saturday, monitored in New Delhi by Reuters on Sunday night, showed her accusing the government of Afghan, President Burhanuddin Rabbani of having lost its legitimacy.

"It only has a nuisance value," she said, adding that Kabul controlled just five of Afghanistan's 32 provinces which it would lose despite India's alleged involvement.

"India is helping the Kabul administration in its bid to flare up the conflict. For this purpose, India has a regular aerial contact from New Delhi to (Kabul's) Bagram air base," Ms. Bhutto charged.

But, she said: "We hope all such tactics (will) fail and the ultimate victory (will) be those of the Afghan masses."

Indian defence analysts say the rebel Islamic militia has received support from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan with the backing of the United States.

A U.S. diplomat denied the accusation, calling it "an overblown charge."

Indian analysts said the Taliban-led offensive on Kabul was aimed at opening up a vital route from the Indian Ocean to Central Asia.

"It's the great game in reverse," said Jasjit Singh, director of the state-funded Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, referring to the 19th century British policy of seeking to use Afghanistan as a buffer against Russian expansionism.

"The Central Asian countries have struck it rich in oil and American companies are engaged in exploration there," Mr. Singh said. "Afghanistan provides the shortest route to central Asia."

Mr. Singh's remarks followed an accusation by Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid last week that Pakistan was directly involved in the Taliban movement.

"It is very clear that Taliban are just not students who got up to say that we'll put things right," Mr. Khurshid told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

"They have a very definite agenda and are being helped in that definite agenda by Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Khurshid said the war had triggered tensions between Pakistan and some other countries surrounding Afghanistan.

"There are problems between Iran and Pakistan over Afghanistan (and) some kind of difference between Tashkent and Iran on what is happening in Afghanistan," he said.

"We have taken a position that external interference in Afghanistan is not helping the situation at all," he said.

Philippines thanks UAE for saving maid

MANILA (AFP) — A grateful Philippines heaved a collective sigh of relief Monday as a United Arab Emirates (UAE) family dropped its demand for the execution of a condemned Filipina maid.

But human rights groups have vowed to pursue the maid's release from jail.

President Fidel Ramos said in a statement Monday: "The government and the people of the Republic of the Philippines express their appreciation and gratitude to the family of the late Almas Mohammad Abdullah Al Baloushi for dropping the demand for the imposition of the death sentence on the youthful Muslim Filipina, Sarah Balabagan."

However, human rights groups said they would pursue demands for the acquittal and release of 16-year-old Balabagan, who was condemned to die after a UAE court rejected her claim that she killed her employer in self-defence after he raped her.

"In spite of the elation, we are still concerned about Sarah's possible prison sentence and payment of \$40,000 in blood money," said Arnel de Guzman, head of a 16-member coalition, the Free Sarah Balabagan Movement (FSBM).

"Our position remains that she be immediately released and repatriated," said Poe Grabela of Migrant, one of the country's militant migrant workers' associations.

The family of Baloushi, whom Ms. Balabagan killed, agreed on Saturday to drop the death sentence.

"I don't want her to be killed. Sure it's a difficult decision but what can I do," Baloushi's 24-year-old son, Faraj, told AFP in Dubai.

The court, which resumes Oct. 30, will automatically drop the death sentence but may impose a jail term and award damages to the family.

Mr. De Guzman said their coalition would request the UAE court to suspend Balabagan's jail sentence "in the light that she is a minor."

A UAE court said that at the time of the killing in 1994, the maid was 27 years old according to her passport, but her parents have a birth certificate saying that she was only 15 then.

Mr. Ramos, without mentioning any demands, reiterated Manila's "confidence in the judicial system of the UAE" and looked forward to "a satisfactory final resolution" of the case.

The human rights groups extended gratitude to UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan "for his humanity, compassion, sensitivity and statesmanship."

Mr. Grabela said that "at least, the protest will not reach the same level it did when Flor Contemplacion was about to be killed," a reference to the hanging in Singapore in March of another Filipina maid convicted of two murders.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Captain Planet
14:30 M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00 To Run The Gauntlet
16:00 I Love Lucy
16:30 Tarzan
17:00 Children's Programme — Cocotte
17:30 Series — Fruits Et Legumes
18:00 Savoir Plus Sante
19:00 News in French
19:15 Afrique Du Sud
19:30 News Headlines
19:35 The Secrets of Treasure Island
20:00 You Bet Your Life
20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
21:15 Drama — True Blue
22:00 News in English
22:25 Film: "Love Can Be Murder"
23:59 A Perfect Hero
00:30 Grace Under Fire
00:30 Varieties

PRAYER TIMES

06:15 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise/Duha
11:21 Dhuhur
14:35 'Asr
17:06 Maghreb
18:24 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772621
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Antonian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624238
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Unstable weather conditions are expected to prevail with scattered

showers expected in the eastern and southern parts of the Kingdom and winds easterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 13/27
Aqaba 17/30
Deserts 11/30
Jordan Valley 17/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 30. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 39 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Mutaz Hattab 812220
Dr. Faysal Dabbas 739145
Dr. Arafat Al-Ashhab 602507
Dr. Munther Al Oraini 884286
Ferdous pharmacy 788336
Al Asma pharmacy 637053
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nairoukh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Hilo 279773
Aqaba pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 75121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 731111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381352
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallat, J. Amman 636140
Palestine Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 6672219
The Islamic, Abdali 6612157
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Indian, Al-Muhajreen 7771015
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf 7751126
Army, Marka 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)967132
Al Hilma Modern Hospital (09)909990
IRBID:
Princeps Bana Hospital (02)273533
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272725
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

03:10 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:00 Damascus (RJ)
08:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:35 Beirut (RJ)
09:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:20 Cairo (RJ)
16:40 Frankfurt (RJ)
17:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
23:15 Paris (add) (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)
04:20 Damascus, Paris (AF)

06:45 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Munich (YP)
14:20 Rome (AZ)
17:45 Khartoum (SD)
18:15 Dubai (EK)
20:00 Aden (DY)
20:10 Beirut (ME)
23:00 Amsterdam (KL)
23:55 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:40 Beirut (RJ)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Aqaba, Paris (add) (RJ)
11:10 Aqaba, Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:15 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
12:10 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:15 Cairo (RJ)
13:00 London (RJ)
13:30 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
20:05 Jeddah (RJ)
20:45 Damascus (RJ)
21:20 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
06:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

09:45 Cairo (MS)
13:00 Khartoum (SD)
13:40 Vienna (OS)
13:55 Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (YP)
15:20 Damascus (AZ)
19:15 Dubai (EK)
21:00 Amsterdam (KL)
06:25 Aden (DY)
06:55 Bucharest (RO)

MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 700/500
Banana 680
Banana (Mukammal) 620
Cabbage 210/150
Carrot 450/300
Cauliflower 340/220
Cucumbers (large) 250/150
Cucumbers (small) 400/300
Eggplant 230/140
Garlic 750/600
Grapes 650/450
Grape Fruit 230/140
Lemon 240/150
Marrow (large) 180/100
Marrow (small) 280/200
Olives (green) 200/120
Onion (dry) 370/270
Onion (wet) 200/150
Pepper (hot) 250/180
Pepper (sweet) 230/180
Pomegranate 350/250
Potato 330/220
Spinach 280/200
String Beans 850/700
Tomato 110/80

A U.S. diplomat denied an accusation, calling it an "overblown charge." Indian analysts said a Taliban-led offensive in Kabul was aimed at opening up a vital route from the Indian Ocean to Central Asia.

"It's the great game in reverse," said Jasjit Singh, director of the state-owned Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, referring to the 19th century British policy of seeking to block Russian expansion against Afghanistan.

"The Central Asian countries have struck it rich in oil and American companies are engaged in exploring there," Mr. Singh said. "Afghanistan provides the shortest route to Central Asia."

Mr. Singh's remarks followed an accusation by the Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid last week that Pakistan was directly involved in the Taliban movement.

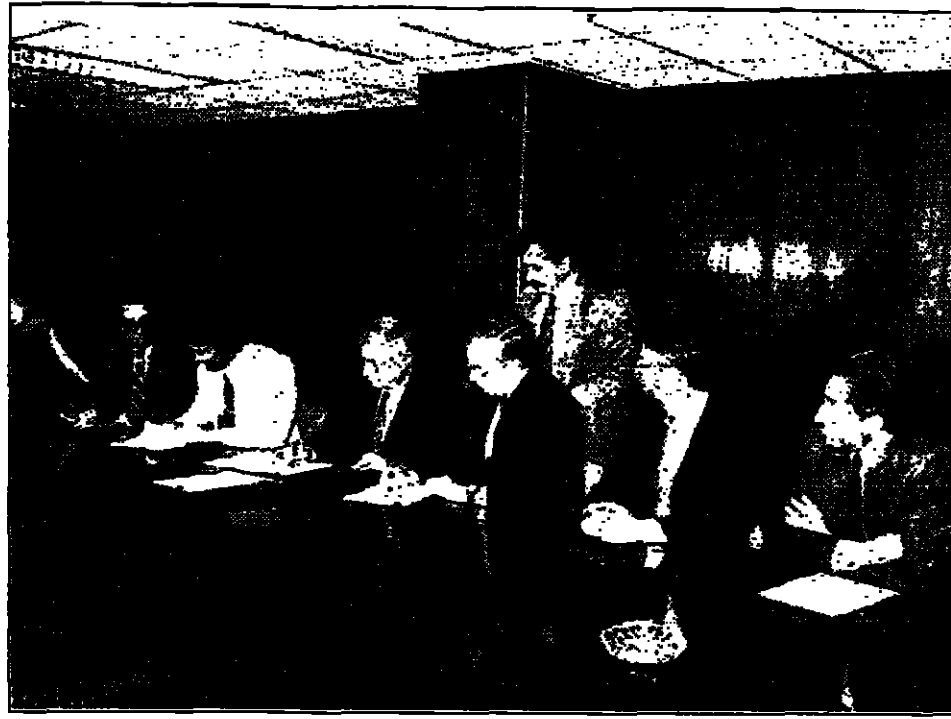
"It is very clear that the Taliban are just not students, they got up to say that we're things right," Mr. Khurshid told Reuters in an interview on Thursday.

"They have a very definite agenda and are being helped in that definite agenda," Pakistan," he said.

Mr. Khurshid said a war had triggered tensions between Pakistan and some other countries surrounding Afghanistan.

"There are problems between Iran and Pakistan, Afghanistan (and) some kind of difference between Tajikistan and Iran on what is happening in Afghanistan," he said.

"We have taken a position that external interference in Afghanistan is not helping the situation at all," he said.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat, USAID Director William Oliver and officials of the U.S. consulting firm, Harza Environmental Services, Inc. Monday sign documents on a U.S. grant to study expansion of wastewater systems of Amman-Zarqa Basin (Petra photo)

U.S. grants \$2.8 m for study and plan on Amman-Zarqa Basin wastewater systems

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. Government Monday provided a grant of \$2.8 million to the government of Jordan to cover the full cost of an engineering study and a master plan and design to expand and develop the wastewater systems in the watershed of the Amman-Zarqa River Basin to the year 2025, a U.S. embassy statement said.

The underlying principle to the master plan is that wastewater is an important resource which can be recycled and used for various economic activities, such as agriculture, the statement said.

According to the statement, the study will evaluate the current wastewater collection, conveyance, pumping stations and treatment plant systems currently serving the population of the Amman-Zarqa River Basin.

The study will result in a master plan, a full feasibility study, environmental assessment and preliminary engineering design documents for each wastewater intervention required to meet the future needs of the Amman-Zarqa River Basin, the statement said.

Additionally, the study will assist Jordan in obtaining the financial commitment needed for infrastructure elements of the master plan from international donors and lending institutions, according to the statement.

The funds were committed to a contract agreement signed today by John May on behalf of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. consulting firm, Harza Environmental Services, Inc.

The signing ceremony was witnessed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and USAID Director William Oliver.

Princess Sarvath stresses value of speed, expertise and sensitivity in disaster preparedness

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Annually, natural disasters claim millions of lives worldwide, and the numbers are on the increase, say the experts. That is why concerned individuals and organisations stress the need for better planning and training to avoid extensive human and property damage.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, who Monday delivered a speech during the opening of three-day workshop entitled "Disaster Preparedness," said that disaster relief can be a disaster in itself if not properly managed and organised.

Princess Sarvath said disasters occur "when two elements — hazards and vulnerability — combine in such a profound manner that the economic and social structures of a group of people is sufficiently damaged as to seriously undermine their ability to survive."

It is then a socio-economic phenomenon, an extreme but not necessarily abnormal, state of everyday life in which the continuity of the community structures and processes temporarily fails, said the Princess.

She pointed out that Jordan had not suffered from any major natural disasters, but still has been faced with many crises involving the involuntary mass movement of populations, who have either passed through the Kingdom, "or in the case of Palestinian refugees, have remained in Jordan for want of anywhere else to go."

She cited the 1990 experience when more than 1 million people poured into the Kingdom within a very short span of time following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and said "the magnitude and suddenness of the

problem caught Jordan and the international community completely unprepared." But she said that in 1990 "everyone pulled together, the government, the Armed Forces, the Red Crescent, the U.N. agencies, other non-governmental organisations and the ordinary people of Jordan themselves, and were able to avail themselves in the best possible way of the help that poured in."

Princess Sarvath, the honorary Vice-President of Jordan Red Crescent, said that such situations make it vital that the receiving countries be well-organised, and have a special authority with responsibility to supervise the operations.

She also stressed that attention should be given to the suitability of the provisions, particularly foods, provided and to the importance of speed to rapid disaster response. The Princess suggested that expert, mobile regional disaster teams be formed and put in place so that they would be functioning within hours of a disaster.

She also recommended that an updated register of qualified, experienced disaster response personnel be constantly available to move into a situation with minimal notice, either to work in parallel with colleagues from national societies and agencies or to take over entirely in the absence of suitable persons.

"These people require expertise and experience, but also a fair amount of tact and sensitivity," Princess Sarvath stressed.

Tony Maryon, head of the regional delegation of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), told the participants that there is an increase in the number of people dying because of natural disasters.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Monday listens to a presentation at the first session of a workshop she opened on disaster preparedness. To the Princess' right is Mohammad Hadid, president of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society; to her right is Tony Maryon, head of the regional delegation of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (photo by Boghos)

on the increase, not because there are more droughts or earthquakes than ten years ago, but because more people are being affected," Mr. Maryon said.

According to Mr. Maryon, 250 to 300 million people a year are affected by disaster. The figure, he maintained, is growing at a rate of around 10 million a year.

He added that refugees are the most common recipients of humanitarian assistance.

"Today there are 17 million official refugees in the world, 26 million people regarded as internally displaced and 100 million people classed as economic migrants," he said adding that the surge in movement is unlikely to die down.

"Land and water scarcity, urban crowding increased violence and the weakened role of the state, all combine to ensure that mass migration will be a constant feature of world economics and politics over the next 25 years," he said.

He added that refugees and internally displaced people will constitute the majority of relief beneficiaries over the next decade.

According to Mr. Maryon, one of the main objectives of the workshop includes introducing a concept by which national societies would be able to develop and implement their disaster management systems within the framework of the disaster planning and preparedness cycle.

He added that the workshop is an opportunity for participants to review their backgrounds and experiences in responding to disaster and emergencies in their countries.

He suggested exploring with the participants from other countries if regional cooperation in dealing with disaster and emergencies is feasible.

The workshop aim at discussing the disaster preparedness policy of the IFRC, including planning, preparedness, mitigation, responses, recovery, need for training, human resource exchange, and evaluation.

Participating in the workshop are representative Red Crescent societies in Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Qatar and Jordan.

The workshop, held at the Amra Hotel, is organised by the IFRC and the American Red Cross and will conclude presentation of working papers on Oct. 18 with recommendations to be adopted in the future.

Today, participants will discuss a case study on disaster planning, and on Wednesday they will continue their review of case studies, then conclude with an evaluation of the work and a closing ceremony.

Collision survivors remain in Irbid hospitals

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eight survivors of a fatal road accident that claimed the lives of four people Sunday on the Irbid-Huson Highway, were listed in serious to fair condition Monday.

According to police officials, the accident, which occurred at about 4:00 P.M. near Huson, involved a double-cabin pick-up truck carrying a family of five on their way to Zarqa, and a military vehicle (a Hammer) with seven enlisted men in it coming from the other direction.

The police official told the Jordan Times Monday that the accident occurred when the left tyre of the military vehicle, coming from Huson, exploded and "the vehicle swerved into the left lane then shot across the divider and smashed into the oncoming pick-up." The officials also said the driver of the military vehicle, Ahmad Ali, 29, was speeding.

"The strong impact completely wrecked the pick-up and four of the five passengers in the pick-up were killed instantly," the official said.

The deceased were identified as "Ismael" Mhmed, 40; Ma'moun Ismael, 25; Abdul Hadi Mohammad, 30, and Ismael Abdul Hamid, 49.

According to officials at Rosary Hospital in Irbid, four victims were admitted Sunday. Three were treated for fractures and bruises and were transferred to Eidom Military Hospital in Irbid.

The official added that the fourth victim, Adel Sa'adeh, 23, is in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) suffering from a brain concussion and is listed in critical condition.

The remaining casualties were taken to Prince Rashid Military Hospital and were listed in fair to good condition.

Surgeons' conference aims to enhance contacts with experts abroad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Surgeons from nine Arab countries, Germany and Belgium gathered at the Amman Philadelphia Hotel Monday for a three-day conference organised jointly by the Jordanian Surgical Society (JSS), the Pan-Arab Association of Surgeons and the Jordanian German Medical Society.

Health Minister Aref Batayneh, who opened the session, said the conference on surgery reflects the efforts made to maintain and enhance international cooperation among colleagues.

Dr. Batayneh said that Jordanian surgeons and medical facilities and hospitals here are recognised abroad as being dedicated and efficient.

Dr. Basem Dajani, president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) told the session that medical conferences organised in Jordan are aimed at continuing efforts to benefit Jordanian physicians and specialists from the expertise of other countries.

Other speakers at the opening session included delegates from Germany and Egypt.

Following the opening session Dr. Hassan Khreis, the secretary general of the Arab Doctors' Union delivered a lecture on the historical influence of Arab medicine in Europe.

Dr. Batayneh later opened a medical exhibition in which major Arab and international firms displayed drugs and medical equipment used in hospitals.

Taking part in the meetings are 300 delegates of whom 30 are from Germany and 160 are from Jordan, according to JSS President Wa'el Fatayer.

He said delegates will review 61 papers dealing with various surgical specialisations and techniques.

The JSS, which was established in 1973 to help develop surgery in the Kingdom, has 160 members.

Ecological, medical tourism to be key attractions of MENA private sector projects

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Eco-tourism and medical tourism will be the key words in the over \$1.5 billion worth of projects to be proposed by the private sector committee on tourism at the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, according to Akel Biltaji, chairman of the committee.

Mr. Biltaji, who is vice president of investments at Royal Jordanian, also said that in the coming years tourism could be the solution to unemployment in Jordan, provided proper schools and training centres to develop human resources in this sector are created.

Previous studies and workshops suggested that tourism in Jordan must develop into a selective type, "because our cultural and natural heritage is fragile," said Mr. Biltaji.

Mr. Biltaji told the Jordan Times that more than 10 projects, ranging in cost from \$1 million to \$50 million will concentrate on the development of the Dead Sea area and aim at creating a joint medical centre, hotels, rest houses and other facilities.

According to studies conducted by the Dead Sea Medical Research Centre, the climatotherapeutic and balneological treatment of dermatological diseases (psoriasis, dermatitis and vitiligo), arthritic diseases and respiratory ailments at the Dead Sea has proven very successful.

The sun's ultraviolet rays which are significantly filtered, the low relative humidity, high temperatures and high barometric pressure, the bromine-rich atmosphere and mineral-rich saline waters and mud,

make the region unique in terms of climatic and natural resources.

Mr. Biltaji added that the Jordan Valley area, south of the Dead Sea, will also be developed with rest houses and hotels for tourists.

Eco-tourism, tourism that is friendly to the environment, will be developed in Wadi Rum, while many projects concerning the port city of Aqaba stress on sport facilities, for water sports, golf and horseback riding.

According to Mr. Biltaji, proposals submitted by the private sector tourism committee at MENA will include sport complexes, tourist villages with chalets and bungalows, four and five star hotels and camping sites.

Last week, the Aqaba Region Authority signed an agreement with the American company Magic World

for the creation of a multi-million dollar tourism resort in Aqaba, which will include a hotel, chalets and a 400-dunum entertainment park.

Stressing the need to work on the infrastructure to complement these projects, especially air, ground and sea transport to Aqaba, Mr. Biltaji added that two additional Royal Jordanian flights a day from Amman to Aqaba will be available starting from the end of November.

The Ministry of Public Works and Housing contracted an Italian company for the construction and completion of Ras Al Naqab/Aqaba junction highway last month.

The committee representing the Jordanian tourism private sector at the MENA economic summit is co-chaired by Sami Sawalha, a leading investor in tourism,

and includes Michel Nazzari, president of the Hotels Association, Saleh Rifai, from Zara Group, Fathi Shami, from JETT (transport company), Nasser Za'atara, representing the Travel Agents Association and Hala Latouf, the director of the private sector office at the Ministry of Tourism.

Holiday Inn and Sheraton have already signed agreements with Jordanian firms to build five-star hotels in Amman and, according to Mr. Biltaji, hotels will also be built in Madaba, Jerash, Ajloun, Irbid and Petra.

"The Jordanian private sector is ahead. It didn't need the Amman economic summit to give impetus to the tourism industry, but sensed the increasing economic pulse immediately after the signing of the peace treaty, especially because it has to deal with less red tape and bureaucracy than the public sector," said Mr. Biltaji.

Austrian ensemble to bring warm harmonies to fall

By Jean-Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After the brilliant performance last Thursday of the French Trio Wanderer, music lovers will be treated to another first class concert of chamber music, this time by the Austrian ensemble Linz-Wien.

The combination of violin, recorder and guitar is particularly pleasant in chamber music. The sound timbre that is usually the result of the blending of the three instruments is soft, with relatively moderate dynamics but extremely rich colours and warm harmonies.

Last year, another Austrian trio—the Trio Scholl—with the same baroque instruments, gave an unforgettable performance in Amman.

The Trio Linz-Wien will play works by Mozart, Beethoven, Anton Bruckner, Mamro Guilianni and Wolfgang Jungwirth, who is also one of the performers. Each of the two concerts will feature a different programme.

Tonight's performance by the Trio Linz-Wien will be at the Philadelphia Hotel and Wednesday's concert is will be performed at Ruwag Al Balka. The second performance will be followed by a dinner at Zowadeh Restaurant.

Organised by the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation, in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy in Amman, the concerts will feature Michaela Curka on baroque violin and recorder, Helmut Schaller on recorder and Wolfgang Jungwirth on guitar.



Trio Linz Wien

MARKET PRICES

Apple	100
Banana	100
Carrot	100
Cauliflower	100
Cucumber (large)	100
Cucumber (small)	100
Eggplant	100
Garlic	100
Onion	100
Pepper	100
Tomato	100
Yam	100

CONCERT

* By Trio Linz-Wien at the Philadelphia Hotel at 8:00 p.m.

FILMS

* Turkish film "The Road" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6:00pm.

NEWS

* McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00pm.

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Janet Venn-Brown at Alia Art Gallery.

* Works by Luis Azcarate at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman.

* A Retrospective Exhibition of Sculptures and Drawings (1965-1995) by Mona Saudi at Darat Al Furun.

* Graphic design by Iraqi artist Kazem Shamhoud at Orfali Art Gallery, Um Utheina.

* Painting and sculpture by Rafiq Lahham and Laith Al Turk at the Italian Language Centre Gallery, Shmeisani.

* Selected works by the young and the established at The Gallery, Hotel Inter-Continental.

Taiwan premier positive on offer by China president

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan Premier Lien Chan responded positively Monday to a reported offer by Chinese President Jiang Zemin for an historic meeting with Taiwan's president, saying he hoped it would build cooperation.

"We hope this attitude can build the opportunity for future cross-strait (Taiwan-China) cooperation in many ways," Premier Lien told parliament in remarks carried on state radio.

In an interview with U.S. News And World Report newsmagazine, Mr. Jiang was quoted as saying he would be willing to visit Taipei and added that Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui was "welcome" to visit Beijing.

Referring to Mr. Jiang's remarks, Mr. Lien said: "It contains positive meanings."

"It indicates very clearly China's leaders' very pragmatic attitude in recognising that the Republic of China (Taiwan) leader Lee Teng-hui is an irreplaceable counterpart who should be respected," Mr. Lien added in his remarks to parliament.

Relations between China and Taiwan, rivals since a civil war which ended in 1949, deteriorated sharply after Beijing was angered by a U.S. visit by President Lee in June.

Mr. Jiang's offer marked the first time since June that a Chinese leader has raised

the possibility of a summit, and his remarks contrasted sharply with the vitriolic criticism China has heaped upon Mr. Lee since his U.S. trip.

China's official media has lambasted Mr. Lee as a "schemer" and "double-dealer" and said he was plotting independence for Taiwan, which Beijing views as a rebel-held province.

Any meeting between Mr. Jiang and Mr. Lee would be an historic event and mark the first face-to-face encounter between the leaders of Taiwan and China since the civil war ended.

Both leaders have proposed a meeting on several occasions but have disagreed on where it should take place. Mr. Lee insists that it should take place at an "international occasion" outside Taiwan and China but Mr. Jiang says this is not necessary.

President Jiang's interviews in the United States were timed to precede an Oct. 24 summit with U.S. President Bill Clinton. Taiwan-China relations are expected to be high on the agenda.

But other reaction in Taipei was less enthusiastic than Premier Lien's.

The spokesman for Taiwan's ruling Nationalist Party said that China should show good faith by resuming postponed bilateral talks.

"If the Chinese

Communists are sincere about wanting peaceful reunification, they should immediately revive the Koo-Wang talks and first reopen the channels of communication," Hansen Chien said in a statement.

The Koo-Wang talks between Koo Chen-Fu, chairman of Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation and his mainland Chinese counterpart Wang Daohan, were scheduled for July but postponed indefinitely after Lee's U.S. trip.

"(These talks) may gradually escalate into a talk between the leaders of both sides," Mr. Chien's statement added.

A spokeswoman at President Lee's office said the president had not yet made a statement on Mr. Jiang's offer, which was still under consideration.

Meanwhile, President Jiang said the Clinton administration double-crossed him when it allowed President Lee to make a private visit to the United States last June. Newsweek reported Sunday.

After we got information that Lee Teng-hui was going to visit (alma mater) Cornell University, we raised this issue officially before the State Department," Mr. Jiang, the likely successor to Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, told Newsweek in its latest issue.

"Secretary of State (Warren) Christopher firmly replied that if Lee Teng-hui's visit took place, it would represent the violation of the joint U.S.-Sino communiqué."

"However, after seven or eight days, all of a sudden, the White House announced the decision to allow Lee Teng-hui to visit," said Mr. Jiang, who is scheduled to meet President Clinton next week in New York.

"China has a record of being bullied and humiliated by various powers," said Mr. Jiang. "The founding of the People's Republic of China puts an end to that, so this (the visit) is unacceptable to China. This is a hegemonious act. This is not the right way to treat each other as equals."

Responding to Mr. Jiang's comments, Mr. Christopher told Newsweek: "There's no great use in rehearsing the issue of Mr. Lee's visit."

"If there was a misunderstanding, it was China's lack of understanding of the role Congress plays."

Despite his anger and frustration with Washington, Mr. Jiang said he was "ready to adopt a positive and pragmatic attitude" in his meeting with Mr. Clinton.

"We hope this meeting will have a positive impact and work toward the improvement of our bilateral relations," he added.



French Prime Minister Alain Juppé (left) Shares a joke with some of his ministers, Elisabeth Hubert (health, second row second left) Jacques Toubon (justice, centre) and Bernard Pons (urban planning, second right) after being elected president of the neo-Gaullist Rally For the Republic party in Chesy, east of Paris (AFP photo)

Juppe elected president of RPR

PARIS (AP) — Just four days after surviving a housing scandal that could have led to his resignation, prime minister Alain Juppé was elected president of France's leading conservative governing party.

Mr. Juppé, interim president of the Rally For the Republic and the only candidate on the ballot, received 92.6 per cent of the vote from RPR members meeting in Chesy, a suburb east of the French capital.

"From the bottom of my heart, thank you for the support that you have not ceased giving me during these difficult days," Mr. Juppé told some 20,000 cheering delegates in a huge tent.

The prime minister was referring to the severe criticism he faced during the past few weeks for arranging low-rent apartments in expensive Paris neighbourhoods for both himself and his son while he was the city's finance director.

Prosecutors Wednesday decided against a formal probe of the prime minister. The decision was conditional on Mr. Juppé and his son moving out of their apart-

ments, something Mr. Juppé had planned to do anyway.

A formal investigation would have led to Mr. Juppé's resignation less than five months after taking office, thus making him the shortest serving prime minister of the Fifth Republic founded by Gen. Charles De Gaulle in 1958.

The political uncertainty caused by the scandal led to a sharp drop in French financial markets. Mr. Juppé's popularity in the public opinion polls plummeted, and the government as it grappled with a huge budget deficit and 11.5 per cent unemployment.

Mr. Juppé served since November as interim president of the Rally For the Republic, founded by Jacques Chirac in 1976. Mr. Chirac had resigned from the post to wage his successful spring campaign for the French presidency.

Mr. Juppé appeared combative at the RPR convention Sunday, strongly defending his record as prime minister despite criticism of his tax increases aimed at cutting the deficit currently at 320 billion

francs (\$64 billion).

"We immediately took the most difficult and unpopular measures, giving particular attention at every moment towards the more modest and weakest among us," he said.

"I believe with all my force that we have taken the right road," he added.

Mr. Juppé and the conservative coalition, composed of the RPR and the Union for French Democracy (UDF) are hoping that with the scandal behind them, the prime minister will be able to retake the initiative.

The authoritative newspaper Le Monde reported in its Sunday editions that both Mr. Chirac and Mr. Juppé are under pressure to clear up some of the contradictions within the majority over issues including economic and European policies.

Mr. Juppé, who last week faced a successful general strike by public sector employees in protest against a proposed pay freeze for next year, is battling high unemployment as well as a wave of terrorist attacks linked to the civil war in Algeria.

Largest butterfly threatened with extinction

JAKARTA (AFP) — Free-spending collectors have forced the world's largest butterfly, with a wingspan of up to 40 centimetres (16 inches), to the verge of extinction, an Indonesian conservation official has warned. The Ornithoptera Paradisea, more commonly known as "Goliath", is only found in the Indonesian province of Irian Jaya. But a provincial conservation official, quoted by Antara News Agency, said the butterfly was disappearing at an "alarming" rate.

Shanghai confiscates match-maker's earnings

SHANGHAI (AFP) — The Shanghai Civil Affairs Administration Bureau confiscated the earnings of a Japanese businessman who ran an illegal match-making agency, a newspaper reported. The Xin Min Evening News reported that the bureau ordered Yoshio Suzuki to turn over the 3.15 million Japanese Yen (\$31,343) he had earned in eight months of operating the illegal dating service to the state treasury. The report said Mr. Suzuki was also ordered to cease involvement in activities and businesses that contravene China's marriage law.

Dismissed juror poses for Playboy

SANTA CLARITA, California (AP) — A woman who was dismissed from the O. J. Simpson jury after telling the judge "I can't take it anymore" is back in court, this time on a set for a Playboy magazine photo shoot. John Warren, manager of Lindsey Studios, told KABC-TV and KNBC-TV that Playboy booked the studio the day after Simpson was acquitted last week. The \$4,000-per-day studio was overhauled to resemble a courtroom, Mr. Warren said. He wouldn't identify the juror, but the TV stations showed video of a woman they said was Tracy Hampton leaving the studio. Playboy refused to comment.

boy rescued in Burma's 1st documented kidnapping

RANGOON, Burma (AP) — Police rescued a five-year-old boy and arrested five suspects in the first recorded kidnapping case in modern Burma, the state-owned new Light Of Myanmar reported. The rescue took place on Aug. 16 near Pangsang, 800 kilometres northeast of Rangoon in the remote hills of the Burma-China border. The five-year-old boy, identified only as Hsanti, was reported missing by his father Kyaw Myint on Aug. 5. Two days later he received a ransom note from the kidnappers demanding 400,000 Chinese yuan (\$48,192). On Aug. 12, Kyaw Myint dropped off 60,000 yuan (\$7,228) at a place designated by the kidnappers. He did not inform police of his actions. The kidnappers sent a threatening letter on Aug. 16 demanding the rest of the cash. With the help of Pangsang police, Mr. Kyaw Myint then dropped a bag of counterfeit notes at a designated spot the same day. Ten minutes after the drop, as police lay in wait, two men attempted to pick up the money. One suspect was shot in the leg during a scuffle and apprehended later. The captured suspect led them to the house where the boy was kept. Police stormed the house, rescuing the boy, nabbing five suspects and retrieving the \$7,228.

Mrs. Gore's motorcade stoned in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Angry Haitian slum dwellers stoned part of a motorcade the wife of U.S. Vice President Al Gore was travelling in Sunday, smashing its windows and injuring a U.S. Soldier, U.S. Officials said.

They said Tipper Gore's vehicle was already safely inside the gates of a health centre in Cite Soleil slum when the crowd stoned an accompanying vehicle which had stopped outside.

"Rocks started hitting the car...They shattered all of the windows," Mrs. Gore's press secretary Sally Aman, who was in the staff vehicle, later told reporters.

"It was frightening. The crowd got very aggressive, but Mrs. Gore was never in any danger," she added.

The demonstration turned violent before Mrs. Gore

arrived and U.N. peacekeepers used tear gas to repel three protesters who got inside the health centre compound. The crowd responded by throwing stones at the U.N. troops.

Mrs. Aman said Mrs. Gore's personal assistant Alexia Wilson, two doctors and a White House photographer were travelling in the vehicle.

Mrs. Aman said a U.S. soldier was hit in the head with a rock. A Reuters photographer saw a U.S. army major bleeding from a head cut.

Mrs. Gore was accompanying her husband to Haiti, where the vice president spent the morning with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide at the presidential palace several miles away.

U.S. officials said the protest appeared to be spontaneous and Mrs. Gore's

motorcade got caught in the middle of a local dispute between slum dwellers and the director of the U.S.-funded health centre.

Aid workers said residents of Cite Soleil, one of Haiti's poorest slums, believe too little U.S. aid given to the health centre trickles down to the community and money is syphoned off by project administrators.

Mrs. Gore's motorcade sped away from the health centre without incident after her 45-minute visit to the health centre.

The vice president's one-day visit was to celebrate Mr. Aristide's U.S.-backed return to power a year ago after being deposed in a 1991 military coup.

12 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI (AFP) — At least 12 people were killed in the latest bout of unrest in Pakistan's commercial capital, police and hospital officials said Monday.

Among the dozen killed over the previous 24 hours was deputy police Superintendent Bashir Ahmad Khan, gunned down at his home late Sunday.

Police said unidentified gunmen entered the house in the city's central district and sprayed bullets at the officer and his family. The dead man's 20-year-old son was critically injured.

The violence resumed Monday as militants targeted police officials and paramilitary Rangers fired at least two rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs) at the Rangers' headquarters in the city centre.

A captain and two others were wounded, police said. The other dead included two policemen killed late Sunday, whose bullet-ridden bodies were later retrieved by colleagues. A fourth police officer was shot dead in a separate incident Sunday.

City residents reported gunshots throughout the night in several parts of the city, with sniper-fire in the central and western districts claiming the lives of a fifth policeman and seven civilians.

Security forces stepped up patrols Monday, setting up new checkpoints in the city.

The violence followed the deaths of five members of a senior police official's family shot dead Saturday.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for a "black day" to be observed Thursday in protest at the performance of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government.

More than 150 policemen have been killed here this year. Officials have expressed concern over the trend in which the families of law enforcers are being targeted.

Indian film idol ordered freed on bail

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Supreme Court Monday ordered Sanjay Dutt, a box-office idol who towered over the world's biggest film industry, to be released on bail after spending over a year in jail in a Bombay bombing case.

The 36-year-old actor, who earned fame in a string of anti-hero roles and is said to be now suffering from a lung disease, was first arrested in April 1993. He was released on interim bail within a month but re-arrested last year under a strict anti-terrorism law that has since lapsed.

"We allow his application for bail," a three-judge panel said in its ruling, which ordered Dutt to provide 1.5 million rupees (\$45,000) in bail and finan-

cial guarantees and to surrender his passport.

The judgment was a victory for one of India's best-liked film heroes whose long legal struggle and health problems have been played out on the front pages of the nation's press.

Three different courts, including the nation's high court, had turned down seven previous bail applications.

Long-haired and wiry, Dutt was arrested after two suspects in a series of 1993 bombings in Bombay said the film star had illegally bought an assault rifle from them. The bombings killed some 260 people in Bombay, India's commercial capital.

Dutt, whose mother was a prominent Muslim film star

and his father an actor turned politician, said he bought the rifle for protection during riots in Bombay which preceded the bombings.

Ironically, Dutt wielded similar weapons in several of his violence-laced movies, produced in India's film capital Bombay, known as "Bollywood".

The industry makes as many as 800 films a year, more than Hollywood or any other production centre.

Dutt was granted interim bail in May 1993 but taken into custody again and jailed in July 1994 while he awaited trial along with nearly 200 others charged with crimes in connection with the Bombay serial bombings.

the fight that brought multi-party politics in 1990, militants blocked roads with barricades and prepared to march in defiance of the ban.

But as in Abidjan, where security forces deployed at key intersections, witnesses said police and paramilitary gendarmes appeared to be keeping a low profile.

Many businesses, fearing a repeat of Oct. 2, remained closed. Some staff at international organisations stayed home. The U.S. embassy and U.S.-backed international school were shut.

Ivory Coast opposition holds protests

ABIDJAN (R) — Protesters built barricades and burned tyres and a parked bus in scattered incidents in Ivory Coast's main city Abidjan Monday after the main opposition rejected a government appeal to call off banned marches.

With tension rising ahead of Sunday's presidential election, witnesses reported hit-and-run protests in Abidjan's outlying opposition stronghold of Yopougon and in Marcory district.

Economic analysts have said the crisis in the world's top cocoa producer could

jeopardise its quest for foreign investment.

But there were no immediate reports of a repeat of the Oct. 2 clashes between security forces and protesters that followed an earlier opposition call for nationwide protests, and in which at least five people died across the country.

Students in Abobo, another Oct. 2 flashpoint in the city, set fire to a parked bus near a university residential complex.

In the central cocoa town of Gagnoa, stronghold of the Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) which spearheaded

Largest butterfly threatened with extinction

AKARTA (AFP) — Free-riding collectors have snatched the world's largest butterfly, with a wingspan of up to 40 centimetres (16 inches), to the verge of extinction, an Indonesian conservation official has warned. The Ornithophanes archia, more commonly known as "Goliath", is only found in the Indonesian province of Sumatra. But a provincial conservation official, quoted by Antara News agency, said the butterfly is disappearing at an "alarming" rate.

Shanghai

Confiscates matchmaker's earnings
HANGHAI (AFP) — The Shanghai Civil Affairs Administration Bureau confiscated the earnings of a Japanese businessman who ran an illegal match-making agency, a newspaper reported. The Xin Min Evening News reported that the bureau ordered Yoshiaki Suzuki to turn over 3.15 million Japanese yen (\$31,343) he had earned in eight months of operating the illegal dating service to the state treasury. The report said Mr. Suzuki was also ordered to cease involvement in activities and businesses that contravened China's marriage law.

Dismissed juror poses for Playboy

ANITA CHARITA Calcutta (AFP) — A woman who was dismissed from a jury last week for posing for Playboy magazine photo shoot, John Warren, member of Embassy Studios, said she was not sorry. She said she was not a juror and that she was not a model. She said she was not a juror and that she was not a model. She said she was not a juror and that she was not a model.

boy rescued in Burma's 1st documented kidnapping

ANGKONG, Burma (AP) — Police rescued a five-year-old boy and arrested two suspects in the first documented kidnapping case in modern Burma, the state-owned new Light of Myanmar reported. The boy was found in a village in the state of Panglong, 800 kilometres northeast of Yangon in the remote hills of the Burma-China border. The five-year-old boy, identified as Myint, was reported missing by his father Kyaw Myint on Aug. 5. Two days later he was rescued in a ransom note on the kidnapping.

World News



South Korean students hold national flags and shout anti-government slogans during a demonstration at the headquarters of South Korea's ruling party in Seoul (AFP photo)

S. Korea's riot police arrest students

SEOUL (R) — South Korean riot police fired teargas and stormed the office of the ruling political party Monday to arrest students who had raided the office demanding the prosecution of two ex-presidents for a 1980 massacre. "Down with President Kim Young-Sam," one student shouted as riot police led him out of the office of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP). Before the raid, riot police laid mattresses on the ground outside the broken windows where students stood shouting anti-government slogans. "Let's judge the DLP. Down with the government which is protecting the murderers," students chanted. About 13 students, dressed in suits, occupied the sixth floor of the DLP Headquarters and threw leaflets from the windows denouncing the government for the prosecutors' decision in July that ex-presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo would not be indicted over the brutal crackdown. Another 100 students rallied outside the National Assembly, which is located nearby the DLP office, where gates were closed and riot police were deployed inside. Students hurled petrol bombs and attacked a riot police bus as the police drove away. There were no reports of serious injuries. This is one of the latest protests shown by students and dissidents since the July announcement. Students say the two, both army generals at the time, were responsible for the crackdown and should be tried. About 200 people were killed in the uprising against military rule in the southern city of Kwangju, by official count.

Kohl party seeks to unite Europe, ready Germany for 21st century

KARLSRUHE, Germany (AFP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl Monday opened a national conference of his Christian Democratic Union (CDU) which will seek to chart the future of the European Union and prepare Germany for the economic challenges of the 21st century. The some 1,000 delegates to the three-day conference are also expected to agree internal party reforms establishing a minimum 30 per cent quota for women in posts of political responsibility and the possibility of consulting the grass-roots membership by referendum. But development of the European Union, with a reunited Germany implicitly at its political and economic heart, will be a central theme. On the eve of the conference, the CDU party leadership toughened up its stand on political and economic union, stressing that the rigorous economic "convergence" criteria laid down by the Maastricht Treaty for a member country to join in a single European currency must be durably fulfilled. This is a response to widespread fears by Germans that monetary stability will be undermined and their purchasing power diluted by substituting an uncertain Euro-unit for their mighty mark. The leadership is also calling for an extension of the Schengen agreement, which opened borders within the European Union for travellers, to East European countries not currently in the union, and for decisions in a common foreign and security policy of a non-military nature to be taken by a majority of member states rather than unanimously. In declaring its commitment to irreversibly closer European Union, the main conference resolution presents the CDU as "the German party of Europe". The president of the European Union's Executive Commission, Jacques Santer, is attending the gathering being held in this southwest German city. Mr. Kohl wants to galvanise his troops around the idea that the upcoming turn of the century is an important date both for uniting Europe and preparing Germany for the commercial challenges of the 21st century. "making Germany fit" for these challenges is a recurrent theme of his. "We want to make clear here in Karlsruhe that the CDU is better-equipped than any other party for the tasks of the future and is preparing itself for the new challenges," the chancellor said in his keynote speech to delegates.

Nations of Non-Aligned Movement seek relevancy in post-cold war

CARTAGENA, Colombia (AP) — Delegates from developing nations arriving in this Caribbean resort city under heavy security hope to give a fresh face to the Non-Aligned Movement in the post-cold war era. With heads of state of 45 nations expected to come to Cartagena later in the week for a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, delegates Sunday began outlining their vision of the future of the group, created in the 1950s by poorer countries seeking to avoid domination by either the United States or the Soviet Union. "Now that the two blocs don't exist, we must unite efforts to seek peace and prosperity," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas told a press conference. One resolution expected to be proposed at the summit, which officially opens Wednesday, is for the Non-Aligned Movement to seek a revamping of the United Nations Charter to allow a representative seat on the Security Council. Chilean diplomat Juan Pablo Lira suggested that the 113 Non-Aligned Movement members put aside political differences to form a bloc in the United Nations to pass resolutions benefiting their countries. Some nations intend to use the summit to establish or strengthen trade relations. Foreign ministers were expected to begin meeting Monday, to prepare for the full-level meeting, to be held Wednesday-Friday.

Hurricane turns again to batter Mexican coast

MEXICO CITY (R) — Hurricane Roxanne turned around in the Gulf of Mexico Sunday and drifted back to batter southeastern Mexico, where it caused huge damage last week. Roxanne, carrying sustained winds of 95 mph (140 kph) and gusts of more than 100 mph (165 kph), turned back on its original path and headed south-southeast toward the beaten and bruised states of Tabasco and Campeche. As the unpredictable hurricane approached land, 13-foot (4 metre) waves, heavy winds and torrential rain battered large areas of the coast. State-owned oil monopoly Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) said it was forced to suspend its crude exports and virtually all of its crude and gas production in the Campeche region, which accounts for about 70 per cent of national crude output. Pemex said the key port of Cayo Arcas was hammered with waves of 35-feet (11 metres) Sunday. Mexico's National Meteorological Service said Roxanne was moving slowly but would pick up speed in its drift southeast and would by midnight Sunday (0600 GMT Monday) be about 90 kilometres north-northwest of Ciudad-Del Carmen and 180 kilometres north-northeast of Villahermosa. "We think the centre of the hurricane will hit land in southwestern Tabasco in the next 24 to 36 hours," an expert at the service told Reuters, adding that Roxanne would likely sustain its force until it reaches the coast. Southeastern Mexico has still not recovered from Roxanne's first assault last week that left eight people dead. Tens of thousands were forced to flee their homes of tin and wood and major highways linking the region to the rest of the country were flooded and cut off. Roxanne's rains caused huge damage to corn and coffee crops. State government and Red Cross officials said Sunday they were back on full alert. Thousands of people who had returned to their homes in the last couple of days were forced to go back to hurricane shelters. Ports across the region were closed to all traffic and officials said they were concerned more rivers would burst their banks. Roxanne's about-turn in the middle of the Gulf of Mexico was extremely unusual. It saved eastern port cities like Veracruz and Tampico from a direct hit, but means more misery for the country's southeastern states. Meteorologists said it was turned around by a high pressure system which came down from the United States. Mexico has been pounded by two major earthquakes and three hurricanes in the last month, stretching rescue services to the limit.

Claes in battle for survival as NATO grants stay of execution

BRUSSELS (AFP) — NATO chief Willy Claes, facing corruption charges in his native Belgium, Monday mounted a last-ditch effort to cling onto office, claiming he was the victim of a conspiracy and announcing he would defend himself before the country's parliament. The Mr. Claes counter-offensive swung into action as NATO's 16 member nations granted the beleaguered secretary general a stay of execution until Thursday, when the Belgian parliament votes on a week-end recommendation from a parliamentary commission that Mr. Claes be charged with corruption, forgery and fraud in connection with a kickbacks scandal dating from his time as economics minister. "We can take it as almost read that the CVP's loss of its monopoly in my province, as in my commune, after a century and a half, played a role (in the commission's decision)," Mr. Claes said. "I have the feeling that certain groups had their mandates before the meeting, creating a political game that has nothing to do with their role as judge." Mr. Claes also confirmed Monday that he would appear before the parliament Thursday to defend his case. "I never imagined that the world could be so unfair. I want to shout my innocence," he told Le Soir. Despite Mr. Claes' display of his legendary tenacity, diplomats at NATO were extremely sceptical about his chances of survival, although officially all 16 delegations continue to give him their support. "We're all just waiting for the inevitable now," one European diplomat said. U.S. officials however underlined that Washington's unequivocal support for Mr. Claes was unchanged. "In our view, nothing has changed. Mr. Claes is doing an excellent job and we continue to support him in that," an American source said. Public, on-the-record support for Mr. Claes though is conspicuous by its absence, and private consultations between the major NATO capitals on a potential successor are already underway. In Copenhagen, officials said Monday the Danish government was working behind the scenes to propose former Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen as the best candidate to succeed Mr. Claes. Mr. Ellemann-Jensen is said to be widely respected in the West, notably in the United States and Germany, thanks to his performance when he was foreign minister for more than a decade between 1982 and 1993. "Everybody is waiting to see if Claes will fall on his own sword," a European diplomat said. "Nobody wants to be the first out of the trench. But Thursday, if not before, I think you may well see a sword-holder emerge." Another senior source added: "Even if he is 100 per cent innocent he should resign," underlining the damage uncertainty over Claes' position was doing to the alliance's credibility at a crucial stage in its history, as it prepares to send a peace implementation force to Bosnia and enlarge into Eastern Europe. The unwillingness to force Mr. Claes out is partly related to a widespread perception that, after a bad start, he is now doing a very good job at the head of the alliance. His success in renegotiating the terms of NATO's relationship with the U.N. in Bosnia, is frequently cited by diplomats as the work of an accomplished political operator. Mr. Claes though will need all his considerable diplomatic and political skills if he is to pull off what would be a miraculous escape. There has been no suggestion that Mr. Claes was involved in the Flemish Socialists accepting kickbacks from manufacturers Agusta and Dassault after they had won big contracts from the Belgian military. Investigators into the scandal however claim that as a minister involved in the decision to grant the contracts and as a senior party figure, he must have known and failed to act.

Italian political scene jolted by Berlusconi trial

ROME (AFP) — The trial set for early next year of former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi has jolted the Italian political scene, already unsettled by a so far unsuccessful months-old search for stability. Mr. Berlusconi and 10 others allegedly implicated in a scheme to pay bribes to tax policemen in return for favourable tax return examinations will go to trial Jan. 17 in Milan ahead of elections that could come as early as March. As a result, the electoral campaign could hit high gear just as the leader of one of the country's two principal political factions is on trial. Mr. Berlusconi nonetheless appeared to welcome the chance to have his day in court. "The injustice of which I am a victim will only become clearer," he said in an interview that appeared Sunday in the newspaper La Stampa. "I am not afraid of anything." The owner of Italy's three main private television stations, Mr. Berlusconi said he would be favourable having the hearings broadcast live in order to give him the opportunity to "reply point by point to the accusations so that people will finally learn the truth." The former prime minister has repeatedly proclaimed his innocence and has sworn "on the heads of my children" that he had nothing whatsoever to do with illegal payments. Determined to recapture political ground lost last December, he has vowed to remain at the head of his center-right Forza Italia coalition. "I don't go backwards," he told La Stampa. Such confidence is not shared by Mr. Berlusconi's allies in some of the smaller centre-right parties. Former Labour Minister Clement Mastella of the Centre Party, who served under Mr. Berlusconi, has openly called for the latter's withdrawal from politics and for elections to be delayed as long as possible in order to "rebuild the country." But Mr. Berlusconi insisted: "All my allies have called to express their solidarity and their unconditional support." Editorials Sunday in La Stampa, Corriere Della Sera and Repubblica appeared to speak with a single voice urging Mr. Berlusconi to step back a bit. Even if his party does win the election, warned Repubblica, President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro will hardly be able to ask Mr. Berlusconi to form a new government. The debate over whether or not Mr. Berlusconi should remain as the leader of his coalition could undermine its cohesion and affect the date of the election. Small parties close to the former prime minister will be pressing for a delay in the vote in the hope of re-establishing a strong central authority in the coalition under a new leader. Postponing the election also has some support on the left, notably among former Christian Democrats.

Kashmir leader escapes assassination attempt

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — A prominent Muslim separatist leader in Kashmir said Monday that he had survived an assassination attempt by gunmen whom he branded Indian agents. Abdul Ghani Lone, 68, said four gunmen tried to force their way into his house in this summer capital of Kashmir state late Sunday. He said they escaped after firing shots in the air following a scuffle with one of his guards. "They wanted to kill me," Mr. Lone told AFP. He said a complaint had been lodged with the police, who had seized a van used by the gunmen. Mr. Lone is one of the leaders of the All Party Freedom Conference, an umbrella group of more than 30 Muslim militant and political groups campaigning to secede Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state. He said the gunmen belonged to the Ikhwan-ul-Muslmoon of renegade militant leader Kunka Paray, who is accused of being an Indian agent by Muslim separatist groups. Mr. Paray denies the charge. The separatist leader did not say how he identified the attackers. Police could not be reached for comment. Mr. Lone, who heads a group called People's Conference and was once a lawmaker in the Kashmir legislature, escaped a kidnapping attempt in June at Anantnag, some 55 kilometres from here. Mr. Lone was jailed for two years from 1990, at the height of the separatist drive in Kashmir, and again for three months in 1993-94 during an army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque on Srinagar's outskirts. Meanwhile, an Indian soldier was killed and two others seriously wounded early Monday in an ambush by Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir's Doda district, officials said in Jammu, the state's winter capital. The attack on the army patrol was blamed on Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, the dominant militant group in the northern state of Kashmir. More than 12,000 people have been killed in Kashmir since the separatist drive erupted in 1989. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants. Islamabad denies the charge but gives diplomatic support to the unrest.

Police arrest bombers as strike sweeps Bangladesh

DHAKA (R) — Bangladeshis protesters threw bombs and chased security personnel Monday as life across the country was severely disrupted by the start of a four-day general strike called by opposition parties, witnesses said. They said hundreds of supporters of the opposition parties trying to topple the government and force early elections took to the otherwise empty streets, throwing small home-made bombs and jeering at police. Police made an unknown number of arrests, witnesses said. The protesters pelted stones at buildings and tore down the signboard at an office of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). Police said the bombs were mostly fire-crackers. They had no immediate report of injuries. "We have a long way to go through the 96 hours of this strike until Thursday. Anything can happen in between," one officer told Reuters. The strike, which began at 6 a.m. (0000 GMT), will be the longest continuous stoppage since Prime Minister Begam Khaleda Zia took power after the 1991 elections, billed as Bangladesh's first free polls to restore democracy in this South Asian country after long years of military rule. "But Khaleda is making a mockery of the democracy," opposition leader Sheikh Hasina declared. She said "Khaleda has set a new record of corruption" and no election under her would be free and fair. Mrs. Khaleda has denied the charges. "We want her to go immediately so new elections can be held under a neutral caretaker administration," Mrs. Hasina told her party leaders ahead of Monday's strike. Almost all opposition legislators resigned in December after a long boycott of parliament and asked the government to dissolve the 330-member assembly because they considered it had lost legitimacy following the mass resignations. But Mrs. Khaleda has refused to dissolve parliament, and has also turned aside other opposition demands. On Monday, there was no transport on the strike-bound streets of Dhaka and other cities, apart for a few rickshaws. Picketers attacked and broke dozens of rickshaws for defying the strike, witnesses said. Most factories and offices were closed, except for the main government secretariat. More than 5,000 police and paramilitary troops were deployed in the capital Dhaka and reports said security was tight in other cities, including the port of Chittagong. "We are listening to bomb explosions every few minutes," said a journalist in Chittagong. One reporter in the northeastern town of Sylhet said the streets were controlled by anti-government activists. A few trains left their stations outside Dhaka but were forced to stop by opposition activists, railway sources said. Buses and lorries did not move while ferry services operated partially. Airline officials said several domestic flights were cancelled. The country had been hit by eight strike days since early September which many say have hurt the economy.

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Life, even in camps

A SPEEDY end to the controversy over the lands on which a number of refugee camps were constructed appears to be in sight. His Majesty King Hussein's recent intervention in the search for a legal and equitable solution to the problem has laid the necessary foundation for a quick settlement. The new approach calls on the concerned parties to focus on all dimensions of the issue in attempts to find an amicable but legal formula which can satisfy the legitimate rights and concerns of all sides.

It is obvious that the problem was left neglected and simmering for so long that it ended up without an adequate and sound legal regime to govern it. On the one hand the landowners have a right to their properties and what they have been receiving as rent is grossly unfair. On the other hand the refugees who are camped on the affected lands had been led to believe that all is fine as far as their standing is concerned. Subsequently, the temporary homes of these people became permanent and in the process prejudiced the rights of the owners to fair compensation or repossession.

But now that the issue has come to the fore, it is timely to raise the all-too-important question on the possibility of a long-term solution. Neither the people who live in these camps nor the landowners nor the residents of Amman should be expected to wait for long until such a solution is found. This is the time, therefore, to convene a committee comprising all concerned parties to address the problem.

Meanwhile, we believe, UNRWA can and should assume a greater responsibility towards finding a proper solution. It can do that by bearing the additional costs of fairer compensation to landowners pending the conclusion of an agreement on the final settlement.

People have a constitutional right to their properties and they cannot be expected to assume the brunt of the responsibility for the welfare of refugees for much longer. Likewise court decisions are binding and have to be respected and implemented. At the same time we cannot just push refugees out of their dwellings and onto the streets. That is why the ultimate solution must be broadly based and multi-dimensional yet legal and equitable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Commenting on the controversy surrounding the fate of the refugee camps in Jordan, a writer in Al Ra'i Monday said that King Hussein's announcement on Saturday had dissolved the tension that gripped the camp's residents in past weeks. By emphasizing the need for national unity and by making it clear that the rights of every citizen and refugee would be upheld, King Hussein put matters into perspective, said Sultan Al Hattab. By saying that Jordan is not Libya, nor is he Qadhafi, the King sent a message to the Jordanian family that national unity was a priority, continued the writer. He said the King's words assumed added significance because the whole country was preparing for an international event and gearing up for the start of a peaceful, secure and progressive era.

No matter how hard Israel tries to pin the blame on Syria for the continued resistance in southern Lebanon and for allegedly encouraging the Hizbollah to launch attacks against Jewish state, Israel cannot escape the real blame for the explosive situation in the area, said a writer in Al Dustour. According to Saleh Qalib, Israel should realize that its occupation of South Lebanon had incited the resistance movement. The writer said Israel had always believed in creating "buffer zones" along its borders with Arab states to ensure security. But this strategy had proved to be a total failure since the so-called security zone in southern Lebanon had not prevented Lebanon's resistance groups from launching their attacks. Mr. Qalib wrote that the only way for Israel to guarantee security in its northern region, was to withdraw its troops from South Lebanon and thereby implement U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

Nasser, Oslo II, and problematic autumn days

BY AN EXTRAORDINARY coincidence, the signing of the Oslo II accord between Israel and (some) Palestinians on September 28 occurred 25 years to the day after the death of the late Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser. The occasion of this early autumn day is an opportunity to assess the modern fate or condition of the Arab World, by assessing three related components: the legacy of Abdul Nasser, the quality of the Oslo II accord, and the state of Arab nationalism.

By all accounts, the Oslo II accord reflects contemporary Arab weakness and fragmentation. Unable to force Israel to draw on the battlefield or into an equitable negotiating situation, the Arabs and the Palestinians in particular have had to settle for an imperfect and often demeaning resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The main reasons for this situation are: a) the strength of Israel and the substantial American support it has, and b) the inability of the Arab people to work together or to pool their resources in the confrontation with Israel. This is a clear failure of the pan-Arab ideology that Abdul Nasser represented.

The man himself remains a giant in modern Arab history, his memory eternally etched into the Arab conscience as a brief but fleeting attempt to transform pan-Arab emotional sentiment and political ideology into a force for Arab national development and for a coherent response to the challenge of Zionism. But Abdul Nasser's legacy remains clouded by the parallel recognition that he and his successors have failed on both counts: they have sent Egypt into a spiral of national decline based on a combination of ineffective socio-economic development policies and persistently violent and autocratic domestic political tendencies, while simultaneously missing the opportunity to rally the Arab people into a credible regional movement for pan-Arab progress and integration.

The signing of the Oslo II accord marks a full generation since the death of Abdul Nasser. It also marks an opportune moment to take stock of the meaning of this passing Arab generation. Is Arab nationalism a failed ideology that only marked a brief historical moment of heightened emotionalism? Or is there something more substantial in the ghost of Arab nationalism that remains to be salvaged and reinvigorated in a more effective form?

It remains for our generation today to ask these questions in a clear and honest manner, so that the next generation of Arabs can look forward to a political history that is more satisfying than the past quarter century. Several basic questions pose themselves in this regard:

What is Arab nationalism? Is it a genuine and durable national ideology that can reflect the sentiments and aspirations of Arabs throughout our region, or is it nothing more than a cruel and empty emotional hoax? Is it an expression of cultural identity, political action, national sentiment, or collective economics, or an expression of nothing at all?

Who determines the definition, purpose and operational expression of Arab nationalism? Is this a process that only a handful of Arab leaders can define and exploit, or is it something that can only be given authentic expression by the Arab people themselves?

How can the Arab people today pass verdict on the authenticity and relevance of Arab nationalism? What mechanisms do we have in the Arab World today that can allow the 230 million or so ordinary Arabs to determine if Arab nationalism is something real or illusory?

The sad fact is that we have no credible forum in the Arab World that can permit the ordinary people of our region to answer these important questions. A few democratising Arab states offer their people the chance to express their political and cultural identities; and Arab nationalism, along with Islamism, tribalism and state-centred ideologies, is clearly one of several forces that define our region and its people. Regional institutions such as the Arab League reflect the sentiments of governments more than the sentiments of ordinary people.

The truth today, a generation after the death of Abdul Nasser, is that we do not accurately know what most Arab people feel politically — about pan-Arabism or other competing identities and ideologies. This is regrettable, but not necessarily inevitable and permanent. Therefore, the single most important goal that we should pursue today is to persevere in our struggle to develop Arab political systems that allow the Arab people to express themselves in freedom and dignity.

I am convinced that the pressing socio-economic problems of our region will force the Arab people to develop a new, more rational form of pan-Arab nationalism that relies less on emotional sloganeering and chaotic responses to the challenge of Zionism, and instead relies more on forging sustainable forms of economic integration and

cooperation that can finally exploit the substantial human, cultural, and natural resource wealth of our region. Regional cooperation, rather than foreign dependence, is the key to Arab progress and well-being.

The mistakes of the last two generations since mid-century need not represent permanent damage to the Arab people and their rights. We have long blamed Western imperialism and militaristic Zionism for our troubled condition, and most people in the region have suffered permanent autocratic political systems at home, and thus we have enjoyed few real victories or lasting gains in recent decades. The place to start to change this bitter modern legacy is to look inwards to our own states and societies, and to work harder than ever before to assure the next generation of Arabs the fundamental right to express themselves freely in political and cultural terms. Freedom, dignity, participation, and political accountability at home will help create the foundation for more effective cooperation and integration within the Arab region.

If the Western world finds it politically convenient, historically useful, and intellectually entertaining to mock the concept of pan-Arab national identity, our most appropriate response to the West would be simply to ignore such attitudes and get on with the business of building a better Arab World. Post-colonial hangover makes this difficult at times, especially when many Arab people in this region look to the West for the most basic sustenance of their narrow nationalisms and small statehoods — whether practical commodities like money and food, or existential commodities like military protection and political legitimacy.

The primary lesson of the bitter commemoration of Abdul Nasser's death a quarter of a century ago is that the only kind of Arab nationalism that makes any sense or that has any chance to succeed is one that is defined by the free expression of the sentiments and aspirations of the ordinary people that make up the Arab World. Whether or not they choose to give life and meaning to some form of pan-Arab nationalism remains to be seen. We will only know if and when ordinary Arabs can meet in freedom to decide and tell us what they feel and what they want. There is only slight progress towards this end throughout the Arab World nowadays, which is why September 23, 1995 was such a problematic day for us.



S. Africa government pushes for wide participation in writing constitution

By Alexandra Zavis
The Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa — The call to South Africans to help write a new constitution has drawn replies from the idealistic, the computer literate, the pragmatic — and the desperate.

One man asked for help getting back his repossessed house. A group called "Friends of the Pig" wanted to ban the slaughter of animals, especially those of porcine bent.

One plea read simply: "I am hungry."

All told, more than 2 million South Africans have joined in the experiment in grass-roots democracy — writing letters, attending some 600 public meetings, even plugging into the Internet to make suggestions.

A telephone line with taped updates on the latest debates of the constitutional assembly lets callers leave their own recordings. Advertisements seeking constitutional suggestions flash on the screens of automatic teller machines at major banks.

"It is a process that happens once in the lifetime of a nation," said Hassan Ibrahim, administrative

director of the assembly working on the post-apartheid charter. "It is very exciting."

Sceptics wonder whether the politicians writing the constitution won't just ignore the flood of suggestions. Ibrahim, however, noted how persistent lobbying by organisations representing the deaf persuaded constitutional assembly members to draft a clause making sign language the nation's 12th official language.

"We are drafting a constitution in a changing situation," said Cyril Ramaphosa of the African National Congress, chairman of the constitutional assembly. "As precedents are made on a whole number of things that impact on the constitution, we have to take that into account."

In a cramped office 11 floors above the daily din, staffers like Hilton Gallant have read the public's suggestions, summarised them in about 60 reports, and made more than 10 million photocopies.

"We feel the brunt of it," Gallant said. "We start at 8 a.m. ... And can go to 7 or 8 at night. You get tired."

The constitutional assembly, comprising the 490 members of parliament, has

until November 15 to complete the first draft. The final draft is due in May and will take effect in 1999, with South Africa's next general election.

The final constitution is likely to closely resemble an interim document that opened the way to South Africa's first all-race election last year. The interim charter is considered revolutionary because of clauses like the one banning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The final version is to be written in simple English, so South Africans will not need law degrees to understand their rights.

Not all are convinced that the ANC, which won 62 percent of the vote in last year's election, is sincere when it says it wants to hear from everyone and produce a consensus constitution.

It is unclear how emotional issues like abortion and capital punishment will be handled.

The ANC advocates abortion on demand for women of all ages until the 14th week of pregnancy, while a strong anti-abortion lobby has developed in the country. The ANC opposes capital punishment, but opinion polls say a majority of South Africans favour ex-

cuting criminals.

The Inkatha Freedom party, a Zulu nationalist group, has boycotted the assembly, saying it fears the ANC will ram through a constitution giving the ruling party dictatorial powers.

"Until such time as (Inkatha) is involved in approval of the final constitution, there is going to be enormous problems of implementing and legitimising," said Inkatha legislator Walter Felgate.

Inkatha, which controls KwaZulu-Natal province, wants strong regional powers, while the ANC favours a powerful central government. It is likely to be the constitutional court, a body styled after the U.S. Supreme court, that decides how power will be shared between the national and provincial governments.

Conservative whites seeking to negotiate a territory where they can govern themselves also warn of a slow shift toward totalitarian control by the ANC.

"We might get an exceedingly good constitution ... But if we have a government with sufficient power, it will just tear it up," said Tienie Groenewald of the right-wing Freedom Front.

Oman, 1st Gulf state to establish trade links with Israel

By Peter Feuillehard

OMAN HAS become the first Gulf state to officially establish trade links with Israel. The decision by the two countries to exchange trade representatives was taken during a meeting at the United Nations on September 30 between Oman's foreign minister, Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, and Israel's foreign minister, Shimon Peres. A statement by Israel's foreign ministry said that the aim of the agreement was to increase bilateral cooperation in the economic and technical fields and that the two countries were discussing joint projects in the sectors of water, agriculture, medicine and telecommunications.

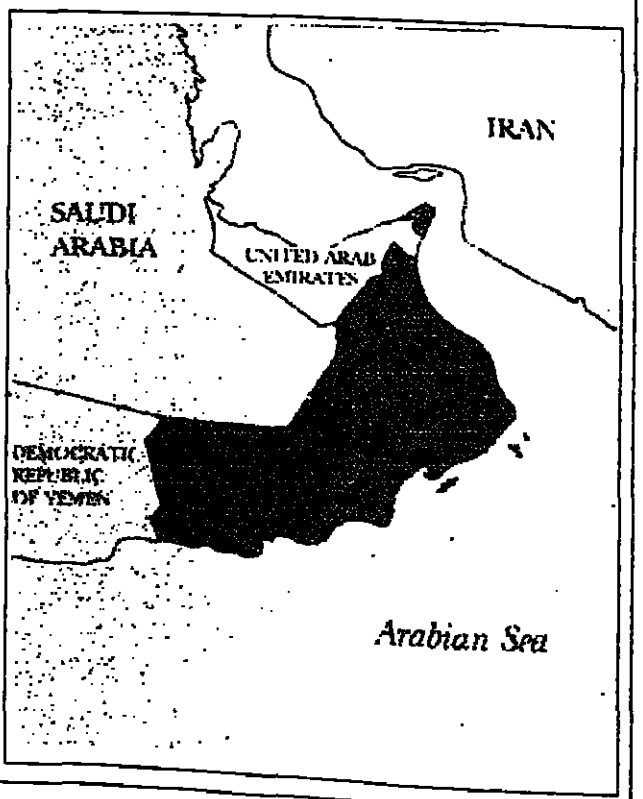
Last year Oman and other GCC states lifted their economic boycott of foreign firms dealing with Israel, in response to the apparent progress being achieved in the Middle East peace process. But in line with GCC policy, Oman had until now stopped short of establishing formal trade relations until a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement was achieved. However, Israeli and Omani ministers have already met several times.

and last December Prime Minister Rabin visited Oman for talks with Sultan Qaboos, the highest public contact between a GCC state and Israel.

Oman, like its fellow GCC member Qatar, has also hosted Middle East multilateral peace talks and held public meetings with Israeli officials. All the while, Muscat has also been exploring trade links with Israel, not to be outdone by Israel's more publicised contacts with Qatar.

With Oman looking to private enterprise to play a greater role in its economy in the future and moving towards the eventual privatisation of all its water supply, this is one field in which Israeli expertise could be in demand in the sultanate. Another area for possible Israeli participation in joint ventures is tourism, now that the Omani authorities are encouraging the private sector to join in the development of a number of seaside resorts and hotels. There was no immediate reaction to the announcement from the other GCC capitals, nor from Tehran, with which Oman maintains good relations.

Middle East International



Features

Israel ponders options

(Continued from page 1)

around town, loudspeakers blaring religious music and urging people to donate money for liberating Israel's so-called "security zone."

Schoolchildren in Tyre's Islamic-run schools were told to bring in candles to class Tuesday to celebrate the Hizbollah's deadliest Hizbollah ambushes against Israeli forces this year.

Meantime, Hizbollah fighters were on maximum alert in anticipation of Israeli retaliation.

An Israeli military source told the Associated Press in Israel that on Sunday Mr. Rabin considered a major punitive strike, but the plan was dropped.

Dovish Environment Minister Yossi Sarid predicted Monday that the response would be limited be-

cause of concerns Israel could get bogged down in Lebanon, as it did when it invaded in 1982.

Israel has accused Syria, the dominant power in Lebanon, of allowing guerrilla attacks on its troops to maintain military pressure on the Jewish state during the two countries' deadlocked peace talks.

Israel has demanded Syria and Lebanon rein in the guerrillas, but they refuse to do so until Israel withdraws from the enclave it has occupied since 1985.

Keep it simple

By Alan Tormaid Campbell

HOW DO human beings keep their society going? How fragile is it? To keep us right in the society we know here, we're held together by all sorts of economic and political institutional arrangements that we think are enormously sophisticated. They are certainly obscure, and there are many competing views trying to tell us how it all works, how it could work better, and what the dangers of breakdown are.

We are also bombarded with disparate information and have access to unprecedented quantities of knowledge. All this gives us the impression that somehow we (as opposed to those we think of as primitives) live in enormously sophisticated societies. When we look at simpler societies we think that it is they who lack something and we who have progressed to a superior state.

But whenever you look it's the small-scale societies that seem to work. It's what's called civilisation that's responsible for crying "Havoc!" and letting slip the dogs of war.

We think that our protection from havoc comes from institutions, such as governments and judicial systems, police and military organisations, and on yes, our amazing scientific and technical sophistication with its basis in literacy. That's right, in a way. We think that if these institutions disintegrated we would be at risk. And I'm sure we would be. But we then go on to reason that those societies that do not have such institutions must be teetering on the verge of chaos.

William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* imagines a set-up where all institutions of authority are suddenly removed, and the abandoned community of schoolboys slips into a process of degeneracy where dark, atavistic manners and arrangements emerge. It's generally assumed that our institutions save us from some dreadful state like that; from some primitive state that we might fall into again if we're not careful. That line of reasoning produces our notions of savagery and primitive society.

This is all upside down. It's we who are the social children, living under the authority of grave, distant, paternalistic institutions of which we know little. The Wayapi people of Amazonia, and many others in similar circumstances, had nothing like that sitting over them (except that is, when they were being interfered with by Brazilians). They had to know how to shift for themselves, and they did very well indeed.

How on earth did they do it? Only 150 people when I first met them and, if left to



The Wayapi people of Amazonia use bows and arrows and walk barefoot, but their society works

themselves, they could get on with it just dandy. No Lord of the Flies fantasy here at all. You could take any aspect of their society you want.

The one that I always find so intriguing (since I find it the most mysterious human capacity) is language. The Wayapi had been cut off for generations from a much larger population with a shared language. Wouldn't the language somehow have shrunk, along with their network of social ties and interests? Not a bit of it. Here were people with a perfectly formed language, now uniquely theirs, still vigorously innovative, volubly expressive, giving them access to a vivid lore of beliefs, myths, and interpretations of their surroundings.

Wayapi people were not teetering on the edge of linguistic havoc, where, at any moment, they might have slipped into a morass of grunts and gestures. They shared the same firm linguistic platform that all other human beings are on. Similarly, they did not face the havoc of starvation and famine. That's something left for civilisation to perpetrate on the world. Here again, it's the wrong way round. It is we, in our complex technological societies who are, in a childlike way, dependent on everyone else around us for the very basics of our existence, and it is Wayapi people who appear as self-sufficient adults, able to look after themselves. That's why all of us who went there and lived with them admired their skills so much and became so aware of how much we have lost.

There is not a trace of romantic illusion in appreciating the wonders of the Wayapi's language, nor in appreciating their superb technical skills and their knowledge of their environment. But what about the society aspect? How was havoc kept at bay there?

Who decided what counted as right and wrong, what was decent behaviour and what was not, what was madness and what sanity? Who decided on punishment and revenge? Where did the restraints on violence come from? Where could appeal be made to for guidance? Why didn't it all just go to pot?

We can say with some firmness: "Look, it just is like that. That's what human life means — language, material culture, social codes. It's just as basic as walking on two legs." But it's not as basic as that. It's not as simple as basic biology.

It's easy for anthropologists to take it all for granted, especially while being there with them in the woods, with the details of the day to get through, and the strings of immediate anxieties and decisions to resolve. While there, an appreciation of the way they held the whole show together came only in scattered moments, being puzzled by something and deliberately stopping to wonder. It's only now, looking back, that I can properly admire what was going on.

Take the murder of Sarapó. His killing wasn't the result of unbridled savagery, nor even of a drunken brawl. Sarapó had five killings to his name and the two who killed him were close brothers and sons of the victims.

The essence of the way they lived was that there was no higher authority to appeal to. There were no ponderous institutions nor grave abstractions (the police or the law) to take decisions or coerce. They had to sort it out themselves. An enormous wrong had been done, and the sons and the brothers sorted it out in the best way they knew. The incident was the extreme example of their singular self-sufficiency.

It's worth emphasising the point about law. Familiar

stereotypes of primitive life manage to incorporate impossible inconsistencies, seeing the people so described as being at once unpredictably, volatile and violent — while also fearfully hidebound within rigidly limiting codes. Again, these views represent worlds turned upside down.

Take leadership. The authoritarian, autocratic chief, signalling capricious judgements with a gesture, is one of our inventions. You quickly find that trying to puzzle out what the word chief means is still one of the most intriguing social and philosophical puzzles that an encounter with Amazon forest peoples presents.

Waiwai was the chief of the Wayapi, but, though we have to translate it like that, we are to the limit of language. The Wayapi word was yane-rowiyung, literally "our-big". "Our-big-one" would be the Wayapi way of putting it.

The word puts into question all our notions of power, authority, influence and rule. We're sodden with notions of patriarchy (and matriarchy now and again), of kings (and queens), of dynastic power and inheritance, of status, classes, castes, races, and of all manner of hierarchies.

We're therefore baffled when we come across a political set-up which is most concisely summed-up in the description: "The chief speaks and everyone does as they please." Professional commentators explain it awkwardly: "Well, you see, the chief is a sort of distributor. Being the political centre, he's given all sorts of material goods. But anything he gets he's got to redistribute. So, although he remains materially poorer, he gets the benefit of superior moral and political status."

This is functionalist fantasy. There was no centring of material production, no

redistributing, no displays of giving among the Wayapi.

The awkwardness is understandable because commentators are all trying to make sense of the question: "How can you have political power in the form of a chief when nothing that the chief says has anything to do with executive decisions?" What on earth is a chief for, if not to dole out the orders? What's power without power?

What delights me is that here again is something so unexpected. It throws up all sorts of questions about the nature and possibilities of human life by putting our notion of political power into a strange light.

There's no doubt Waiwai is a chief. I think of him as a kind of moral commentator, like a stern and self-important writer of editorials in a national newspaper. Sure, he's a thunderer when he walks about at night, or in early twilight, putting on his official voice and doing some hard talking — that people shouldn't be lazy; that women should get up early and bathe in the river when it's cold, and so on. But people didn't take much notice. Certainly decisions were not his to take, and no one would think of asking him to make one.

The picture presented by these communities is one of power-degreed, zero, hierarchy reduced to a minimum, authority no more than a posture, coercion no more than a gesture. What are we looking at? Good old Gemeinschaft? The frozen, out-of-history, primitive society, imperturbable in its synchronicity?

No. It's not a picture of a steady state. It's a picture of a fluctuating process that has managed, so far, to keep afloat and to get through. It's not a picture of functional synchronicity. It's a picture of a practised tightrope walker in motion.

The Guardian

Pullback to be complete by Dec.31

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Arafat, eager to steer the opposition group away from violence against Israel, released Hamas' main spokesman in Gaza last week.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi said there was progress in the negotiations between PNA officials and Hamas on the terms of the group's political participation.

"The discussion today has brought positive and tangible results," Dr. Tibi said. "There is still some work to be done."

Under the emerging agreement, Hamas would suspend attacks on Israel and would participate in the elections.

Hearing postponed

A second hearing on Israel's request for extradition of Musa Abu Marzouk, a leader of Hamas, was postponed until Thursday so Mr. Abu Marzouk could undergo medical tests, judicial sources said.

The hearing had been scheduled to continue Monday after Judge Kevin Duffy halted the proceedings at the request of defence lawyer Stanley Cohen.

But the proceedings were postponed to allow Mr. Abu Marzouk to undergo medical tests, the sources said. Mr. Cohen has said his client is diabetic and has lost 13.5 kilos since his detention in

New York on June 25.

Mr. Abu Marzouk, 44, is wanted on terrorism charges in Israel. He was initially detained for violating U.S. immigration law.

Israeli documents obtained by U.S. authorities allege that Mr. Abu Marzouk is in fact the top leader of Hamas rather than simply its political chief as his claims.

Judicial sources said last week that U.S. investigators had established a link between Mr. Abu Marzouk and a Sudanese diplomat close to radical cleric Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman. Mr. Cohen denounced the report alleging the link as "ridiculous."

Mr. Abu Marzouk, a U.S. resident, denies any involvement in terrorism.

League works on expellees

(Continued from page 1) nians following the Egyptian efforts," he said. "We hope these efforts will allow the expelled Palestinians to travel to Gaza or return to Libya."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa, after meeting Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, said Friday they had agreed to solve within two weeks the problem of the 1,000 stranded Palestinians living in tents.

But Libyan state radio denied any such accord.

Mr. Mousa said Colonel Qaddafi had also agreed to "suspend his decision to expel 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya," a process launched in September to shun the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after only accords have failed to produce a Palestinian homeland.

At least 5,000 have already left the country while a further 1,000 have been trapped in a tent camp set up by the Libyan authorities.

Israel still controls the bor-

ders of the self-ruled Gaza Strip and Palestinians entering the area have to have Israeli-issued entry permits proving they live there.

So far Egypt has banned those without the necessary permits from crossing its territory for Gaza or the West Bank.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was sending enough water, food and blankets on Monday to help the stranded Palestinians through the next two weeks. Libya bated its daily supplies last Wednesday.

Saddam victory hailed in Iraq

(Continued from page 1)

Baghdad said they had established that some votes had been cast against extending the president's mandate.

Washington and the Iraqi opposition in exile dismissed the poll as a farce.

But a Western diplomat said: "You can always question how the poll was conducted and its results, but you can call it a sham, but you cannot prevent Saddam Hussein from declaring that he was elected by his people."

Another said: "The record results showed that Saddam held the country in an iron grip while presenting a facade of democracy."

The three Kurdish autonomous provinces of Dohuk, Sulaymaniyah and Erbil — out of Baghdad's control — were barred from the vote.

Each ballot paper bore a picture of President Saddam and the single question: "Do you approve of Saddam Hussein as president of the republic?"

Underneath was the line "make a cross on the answer of your choice" and two boxes indicating "yes" or "no."

Officials had stressed that voting was not obligatory but many of those who flocked to the polling booths were clearly anxious to show their loyalty to the president.

The state-run Al Thawra newspaper called the vote an "enormous success."

Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam's eldest son Uday, said the United States "from now on faces the failure of its devilish policy towards Iraq."

The ringing endorsement of President Saddam was not shared by his neighbours, who condemned the victory as a shameless exercise in a climate of fear.

"Saddam has even broken the famous Arab record of 99 per cent in referendums and elections," said Fouad Al Hashem, a columnist for the Kuwaiti newspaper Al

Watan. "He has achieved a new dream for dictators."

"Iraq says 'yes' to terror and hunger," said Al Watan's front-page headline. "Yes" in the ballot boxes and "no" in the hearts of Iraqis," wrote Al Qabas, another Kuwaiti newspaper.

Kuwaiti Parliamentary Speaker Ahmad Al Saoudun said the referendum was ridiculously undemocratic and did not show how long President Saddam could survive.

"It does show that at least his position had been shaken by the defections. He has been under great pressure," he added.

Iraqi leaders say they had planned the referendum for years but they announced it soon after President Saddam's two sons-in-law and their wives fled to Jordan in August.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, whose country is under a milder U.N. sanctions regime, sent President Saddam a message saying the referendum result was a blow to Iraq's foreign enemies.

A Saudi newspaper described the referendum as a "disgusting farce."

Al Madina newspaper, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA), also said President Saddam was a tyrant who had forced the "brotherly Iraqi people" to vote in a referendum in which the result was a foregone conclusion.

Mustafa Amin, a veteran Egyptian columnist, called the referendum a ploy to conceal the damage from the defection to Jordan in August of President Saddam's sons-in-law and daughters.

"The 'yes' cast yesterday was that of humiliation and defeat," he said in Egypt's state-owned Al Akhbar newspaper.

UAE urges end to Iraq sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

most outspoken Gulf leaders, also lashed out at Muslim militants, branding them perverts and dirty dogs.

"They have nothing to do with Islam and are dirtier than dogs. They do not deserve any pity or compassion because they have no pity for any one."

"They should call for peace and justice instead of killing children and innocent people. How can they kill and spill blood and claim Islam. They are far away from Islam and are perverts and criminals."

Hrawi to seek new term

(Continued from page 12)

Syria," in a message to Mr. Hrawi also urging him to seek an extension of his mandate which runs out Nov. 24.

Mr. Berri has said that more than half of parliament's members would back the amendment of the constitution.

As requested by Mr. Hrawi and Mr. Berri, Mr. Hrawi said he will send to parliament a draft bill to amend article 49 of the constitution to allow the extension.

Despite public misgivings and outright opposition from some politicians, passage of the amendment is guaranteed in the largely pro-Syrian Maronite legislature. More than 100 deputies have voiced their support for Mr. Hrawi.

Both Mr. Hrawi, a Sunni Muslim, and Mr. Berri, a Shiite Muslim, stressed in their appeals that the presence of Mr. Hrawi was necessary to continue the "march of stability" in Lebanon after the devastation of the 1975-90 civil war.

However, strong opposition to the extension came from Mr. Hrawi's own Maronite community. Under the constitution, a president should be a Maronite, but he is not bound by church decisions.

Cardinal Nasrallah Sfeir, patriarch of the Maronite church, the right-wing Falange party and anti-Syrian Maronite leaders living in exile in France decried moves to amend the constitution to keep Mr. Hrawi in office.

'Ethnic cleansing' in Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

claim by the two sides over who is breaking the truce accord.

The six-man U.N. Military Observer (UNMO) team was taken to the Serb-held town of Prijedor, the closest major town to the frontlines and thought to be an objective of the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps.

Freedom for U.N. peacekeepers to travel through Serb areas to the enclave of Gorazde, a clause in the truce accord, has also met with resistance. On Sunday, a French convoy trying to "test" the route were

turned back at a Serb checkpoint when gunmen threatened them, Col. Veron said.

In recent days tens of thousands of Bosnian Serbs have fled towns and villages as government forces have advanced eastwards. Aid officials have rushed food and supplies to the area to cope with the sudden influx.

Meanwhile, U.S. negotiator on Bosnia Richard Holbrooke and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette kicked off a new round of international diplomacy in Paris, trying to build on the fragile ceasefire,

Video on Muslims in U.K. packs them in Jakarta

By Margot Cohen

JAKARTA — The Indonesian economics student Budi Irawan could hardly believe his eyes.

On a glowing video screen, he watched young men in V-neck sweaters and white trousers enjoy a leisurely game of cricket. They were Muslims, just like him. At play, work and prayer, a whole community of Muslims appeared relaxed and productive in their British surroundings.

"Islam is not under pressure there," marvelled the 19-year-old student. "It can develop freely."

As fears rise over persecution of Muslim minorities and doomsday theories about an inevitable confrontation between Islam and the West flourish, this 15-minute video produced by the British government provides a welcome tonic.

The video is part of a travelling exhibition called "Muslims in Britain," which highlights the daily life of some 1.5 million adherents of the faith.

The exhibition opened in Saudi Arabia in January, moving on to Egypt and Pakistan. Now it has reached Indonesia — home to the world's largest Muslim population — in time to join the Istiqal Festival, a colossal display of Islamic arts and culture that will be open to the public until mid-November.

"We are very aware that there is a real misperception of the West's attitude towards Islam," says John Virgo, information officer at the British Embassy in Jakarta. "There's a tendency to focus on individual issues such as Salman Rushdie and Bosnia."

British authorities, of course, would like to minimise the impact of the Rushdie affair and focus on strengthening commercial and political ties with the Islamic World.

They have come to the right place. "Muslims in Britain" is likely to gain more exposure in Indonesia than anywhere else. With an Islamic revival under way in this multiethnic nation, the crowds flocking to the Istiqal Festival this year should easily surpass the 6 million mark reached in 1991. Weekends, the festival is jammed with visitors from all corners of the archipelago.

Many attractions compete for attention, from ancient pages of the Koran to a computer screen bearing the sacred verses. A bazaar offers Muslim banking services, Muslim fashions, Muslim insurance policies, Muslim children's books and even Muslim soap (which must be without perfume).

Given this cornucopia,

why are Indonesians also making a beeline for the British display?

For one thing, it provides a solid measure of reassurance. In Indonesia, as elsewhere in the Islamic World, the Bosnia crisis has fanned anxiety that Muslim minorities are destined to suffer worldwide. Recent outbreaks of violence against Muslims in majority Catholic province of East Timor, annexed by Indonesia from Portugal in 1976, have brought these fears closer to home. So viewers warm to the notion that the British government and people welcome their 2 per cent Muslim population, most of whose members are under 25.

"The development of a large Muslim community in Britain can enrich and enhance the quality of British life," reads a placard in the display sent out from London. Real-life portraits

of Muslim businessmen, musicians, journalists and others in Britain flesh out the rhetoric.

The exhibition also contradicts the image conveyed by foreign movies and television shows that Westerners are a godless, promiscuous bunch.

"Everything overseas usually seems so vulgar," said 24-year-old Nona Tanamal, a Garuda airlines office worker. "It turns out that they do know how to balance their social life with religious teachings."

Most important, the exhibition encourages Indonesian Muslims to reaffirm their own commitment to religious tolerance and mutual respect. With an Islamic revival on display to the world, they cannot aspire to anything less.

International Herald Tribune

S. Arabia seen keeping spending brakes on in next year's budget

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, its faded wealth eroded by past low oil prices and the costs of the 1990-91 Gulf war, will adhere to strict cost-cutting measures next year and may introduce further rate rises for basic services.

Diplomats and economists say a long reform process has mostly succeeded so far in keeping spending in check while revenues have exceeded forecasts due to a recent increase in oil prices.

A freeze on new arms purchases as well as on projects that are not self-financing and on taking new sovereign loans will stay in place in 1996, the sources said.

They expect the 1996 budget to be within this year's \$40 billion range.

Saudi planners hope a rise in oil revenue will wipe out the 1995 \$4 billion forecast budget deficit. Some diplomats say the country, which has spent more on salaries than predicted, will record a smaller shortfall than the huge deficits seen since 1983, when oil prices dropped after the two shock oil price in-

creases of the 1970s.

A diplomat in Riyadh said the 1995 deficit was expected to drop to five per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) from 10 per cent in 1994, although other sources said it could be lower.

"I think the 1996 budget will be in line with what has been done this year," said the Western diplomat. "I won't be surprised to see something in the way of price rises but not as wide as this year."

In an uncharacteristic move, the state introduced price rises for basic services along with the 1995 budget and officials at the time hinted they were temporary.

The new prices are aimed at cutting a consumption growth rate running at an alarming 15 per cent in the electricity sector and financing multi-billion-dollar power projects in the next few years.

"You do not hear that frequently now the doomsday scenario which was popular with the (world) media," said an Arab source familiar with official thinking. "A country with Saudi's oil reserves can't be bankrupt."

But the 12 million Saudis still have to learn to live on less for several years to come and cut consumption rates.

Saudi planners told Reuters oil revenue, which peaked at \$116 billion in 1981, was expected to be calculated in the new budget at a weighted average barrel price of around \$14.

It is similar to the 1995 conservative estimate and an actual 1994 average when Riyadh had a \$10.7 billion deficit.

Saudi Arabia has earned around \$3 billion above budget so far this year from oil exports. Total revenues were put at \$36 billion in the 1995 budget.

Each \$1 change in the price of a barrel of oil means \$2.5 billion a year up or down for the revenues of Saudi Arabia.

The new budget, diplomats and Saudi planners say, appears so far to be built on the assumption of Iraq not returning fully to the oil market in 1996.

The full lifting of United Nations sanctions on Iraqi oil exports could depress prices and cut into Riyadh's eight million barrel per day (b/d) output.

The sources say Riyadh expects it will most likely continue to export about seven million b/d.

Riyadh's oil output jumped from about 5.5 million b/d prior to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, reaching 8.9 million b/d in 1992 when the kingdom recorded a \$10.6 billion deficit.

It has "none very well (in 1995) but the pressure on the economy is still there. They will carry on with the tight control on spending... they can't afford to relax," said a diplomat in Riyadh.

A key policy move in 1996 is expected to be the introduction of rules to govern long-promised privatisation.

In the five-year plan to the year 2000, the private sector was promised a large role in the economy to help get projects started without burdening the budget.

"They are eager to find more creative ways to secure financing for their various requirements and are expected to continue to resist further borrowing and external loans," said a diplomat.

Arab Gulf states see greater trade and investment role with Europe

MUSCAT (R) — Oman and other Arab Gulf states are pressing for a greater European role in their economies through joint ventures and increased trade, officials said Monday.

Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and European Union (EU) officials underlined the importance of increasing economic ties as they converged on the Omani capital for talks aimed at setting up private sector joint ventures.

"One of Oman's economic visions is to increase and interlink the economy with the international market," said Yousef Salaman, director general of macroeconomic planning at the Oman Development Ministry.

"The government is moving very fast on privatisation now and some of this has to come from abroad," he told Reuters. "Of course, we need the help of European investors and we are considering

changes to our tax laws to make this more attractive."

The GCC comprises Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

"We attach special importance to this conference because the EU is the major partner for GCC oil and petrochemicals exports," said the UAE minister of state for finance and industrial affairs, Ahmad Bin Humaid Al Tayer.

He told the official Oman News Agency that he hoped the two groups would increase trade and investment, particularly in industrial and trade fields.

What matters to us is to see more investment from the EU in the GCC countries and we trust that the private sector in our countries would work on the transfer of technology to the region," he said.

The EU imports a fifth of

its crude oil from the GCC. In turn the EU accounts for nearly 40 per cent of the GCC's imports, making the group the sixth biggest buyer of EU products.

The talks in Muscat will concentrate on such sectors as small and medium industries which will be export-oriented to help swing the \$10 billion EU-GCC trade deficit closer to the Gulf's favour.

Britain, Italy, France, Germany and other EU members have joint ventures in GCC power, oil and gas, utilities and other major projects.

"This conference comes at an important juncture as Oman is about to produce a new and vital five-year plan," Britain's Trade Minister Anthony Nelson said in a speech to businessmen Monday after talks with his Omani counterpart, Makhoul Bin Ali Bin Sultan.

Mr. Salaman said the Omani government had made privatisation a priority in its next five-year development plan starting next January, with more emphasis on spurring private investors to set up projects and less on selling government shares in companies.

Since 1993 it has sold off government holdings in insurance, banks, hotel and cement firms, but for the first time is inviting investors to set up desalination plants on its rugged coastline with private capital alone, Mr. Salaman said.

It was also considering changes to its tax laws to make joint ventures more attractive.

The GCC includes the world's major oil exporters and many have been hit by weak oil prices in recent years, forcing spending cuts and measures to increase their non-oil economies.

Report: China's economic growth creates unprecedented food demand

WASHINGTON (AP) — China's booming economic growth and increasing demand for grain are pushing up world food prices, a Worldwatch report has said.

Lester Brown, president of the independent Environmental and Social Research Group, said the challenge for the world is not that China cannot afford to feed its people but that it can.

"With its grain imports climbing, China's rising grain prices are now becoming the world's rising grain prices," said Mr. Brown, who irritated Chinese leaders a year ago with his research into the burden China is placing on world food supplies.

Grain prices in China rose 60 per cent last year despite increased imports and use of surpluses, the report said.

U.S. agricultural experts attribute this year's 25 per cent rise in U.S. wheat prices mostly to weather conditions affecting the crop, but Worldwatch notes that world grain supplies are at their lowest level in two decades and prices are up around the world.

The impact is beginning to be felt in the price of breakfast cereals, bread, rice, pasta and pastries, Mr. Brown said.

It two years, China has gone from being a net exporter of eight million tonnes of grain to a net importer of 16 million tonnes, said Mr. Brown in the book-length report: "Who will feed China? Wake-up call for a small planet."

The Worldwatch report recommends continuing efforts to limit China's population, investment in agriculture, a shift away from government plans to increase automobile use in favour of trains and bicycles, and support for national programmes to protect cropland and boost efficient water use.

The projections in Mr. Brown's report are staggering:

— If China reaches its goal of producing 100 more eggs per person each year, the grain required for a new flock of 1.3 billion hens would equal all the grain produced in Australia.

— For each adult Chinese to drink just three bottles of

beer a year would take the equivalent of Norway's annual grain harvest.

— If fish farms were used to feed China seafood at the same per-person consumption rate of Japan, it would take as much grain as all that grown in India just to raise the fish.

— If the fish were to come from the sea, China would consume the entire world catch each year.

Chinese officials don't like reports that use such comparisons, insisting that China will be able to produce all the food it needs. Earlier Worldwatch research into the burden China poses for the world brought angry reactions from Chinese agricultural officials.

Mr. Brown said he understands China's reluctance to admit reliance on other countries, particularly the United States. Since early this year, he said, the tone of reports out of China has changed, with officials admitting they face a difficult task in promoting agricultural growth along with rapid industrialisation.

tion.

"Whether China's political leaders are now ready to discuss publicly the dimensions of their likely future dependence on the outside world for food remains to be seen," Mr. Brown said in the book.

In an interview, he said the detailed report is not meant to discourage China from developing but to alert the world to the consequences of it and to encourage China to develop in a sustainable way.

The report also said that China is not the only country whose progress is affecting the demand for food.

"It just happens to be the largest and, by an accident of history, the one that tips the world balance from surplus to scarcity," it said.

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The United Nations will pay \$150 million to governments for their peacekeeping troop cost because it has recently received significant payment of arrears for its peacekeeping operations, the U.N. secretary general's office has announced.

The secretary general took the decision on that action, trusting that the reimbursements would help member states that had faced the most severe problems due to the suspension of payments since last May, under-secretary general for administration and management, Joseph Connor, disclosed as he addressed the committee on the United Nations financial situation last week.

He explained that the action had been made possible by the recent payment of significant sums to United Nations peacekeeping operations, including a total of some \$100 million from the Russian Federation, the United States and Brazil. Despite that, the organisation

would still be owing troop-contributing states some \$900 million at the end of this month and some \$1.1 billion by year's end.

Continuing, he said that although about 30 states had paid various amounts to the regular budget in the last few weeks, its borrowing from peacekeeping would reach \$200 million in November, unless additional and significant dues were paid to it.

Speaking on the related issue of how to determine how much member states would chip in to that budget, the Russian Federation's deputy minister of finance, Anatoly Golovaty, said the root of the United Nations financial crisis was the unfair

manner in which its expenses were shared among its members. The scale of contributions could be improved by using a three-year base period, gross national product (GNP) indicators and market exchange rates to determine a state's capacity to pay. The scheme of limits should be phased out early as it was the most distorting element of the present scale, he added.

The European Union, speaking through Spain, said that the scale should not be seen as a procedure for redistributing wealth among states, but a system to share responsibility for supporting the United Nations. It should be stable and should reflect

member states' capacity to pay. The ceiling rate of 25 per cent should be retained to prevent the United Nations from relying excessively on one member and the floor rate lowered or eliminated. The European Union contributed 34.39 per cent of the regular budget in 1995, a figure that would reach 35.28 per cent and 35.41 per cent in 1996 and 1997, respectively.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Avoid a partner who is depressed and look for new ways to make progress. Show gratitude in some way for help you have received.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A demanding partner should be handled tactfully while you take care of business difficulties. Avoid one who wants to instigate disagreements.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) The task which requires your attention are boring and all seems slow, but outside partners can brighten the picture later today, and you can get much accomplished.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Keep rooted to your career activities and accomplish a good deal since pleasure could prove very costly and unsatisfactory at this time.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can't understand why a family tie is acting strangely, so ignore the situation for awhile and make plans for amusements with close friends and fellow associates.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Study reports and statements well for any possible errors contained within them. Some situation arises through which you can understand close loved ones.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't disagree over money with a good friend and later a bigwig can be most helpful to you today. Don't be forceful towards fellow associates and you will be very successful.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get financial affairs handled properly now but safeguard your reputation against possible damage in the world at large.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Some secret worry can stop you from getting ahead as you would like to at this time, if you permit this, so put your mind on other situations.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't permit one who has difficulties to burden you with them and take care of your own affairs wisely in such a manner which will be noticed.

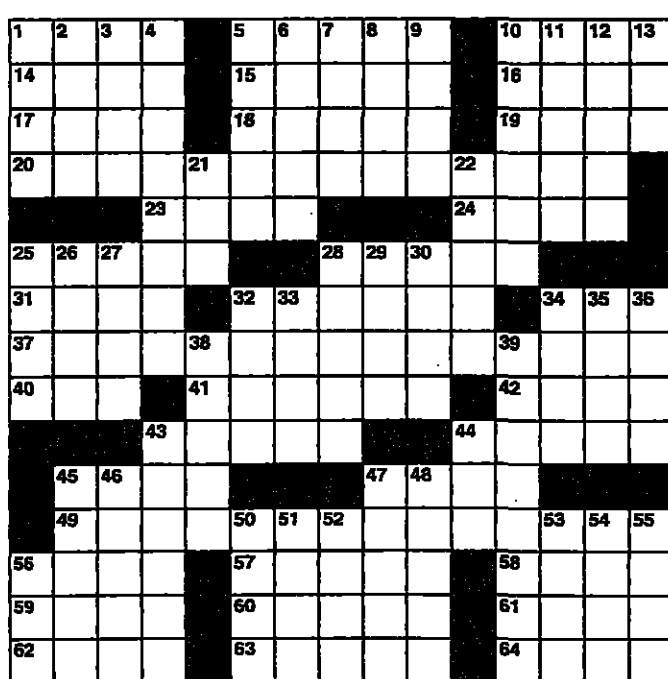
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't involve yourself into a disagreement between a partner and an official of the business and you will stay out of difficulties.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Keep rooted to important duties ahead of you and forget about new pursuits at this time, but handle civic affairs well to the satisfaction of bigwigs.

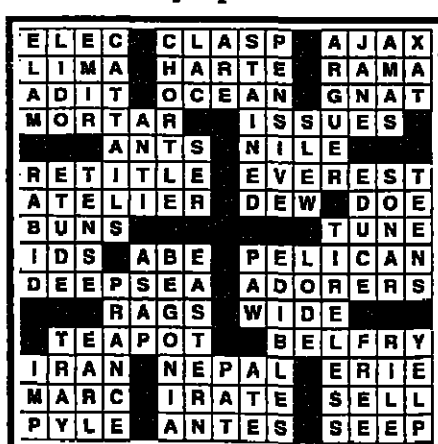
Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

THE Daily Crossword by George Urquhart

- ACROSS**
- Ego
 - Casino game
 - Arduous journey
 - Filament
 - Greek slave
 - Half, pref.
 - Alencon's department
 - Degrade
 - Public disturbance
 - Social event/herb
 - Bridge seat
 - Otherwise
 - Southpaw
 - Wild
 - Jai —
 - Papal garments
 - Mary
 - Fob/prohibit, in a way
 - Comp. dir.
 - Thrown out
 - Golf club
 - Opera heavy
 - Play part
 - Headliner
 - Capricorn's symbol
 - Weather condition/advance payment
 - Lament
 - Automaton
 - Actor's part
 - Stanley Gardner
 - Once upon —
 - "La Douce"
 - Red vegetable
 - Spud
 - Cupid

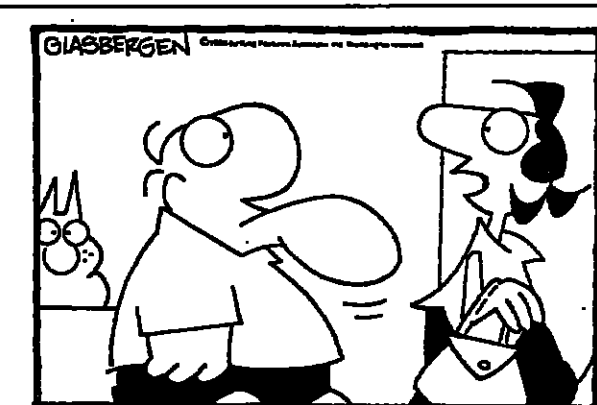


Yesterday's puzzle solved:



- DOWN**
- Begone!
 - Lawman
 - Wyatt
 - Official policy
 - Madly excited
 - Confused state
 - Contradict
 - "—, poor Yorick"

- Model
- Ladder rung
- Person in bondage
- Horse-and-buggy control
- Overact
- Set of tools
- Hit the — (go to bed)
- Smallest amount
- Grassy yard
- Enthusiasm
- Destiny
- Actress Sommer
- Clarinet part
- Musical composition
- H. — Perot
- Used to be
- School on the Thames
- Completed
- Store
- Principal
- Classical dance
- American's uncle
- Frighten
- Linen fabric
- Folklore being
- Playful animal
- College org.
- Church tribunal
- Final bio
- Average
- Sailor's saint
- Time period
- Network



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



Late goal keeps alive Arab hopes

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A late goal gave Egypt's Ismailia a narrow 1-0 win over ASEC Abidjan in an African Championships Cup semifinal first leg tie at the weekend to boost hopes of maintaining the Arab stronghold on the competition.

Mohamed Abou Greisha's 88th-minute goal means Ismailia will travel to the Ivory Coast in a fortnight with a slender lead over the tournament favourites.

The goal also increases

chances of Afro-Arab teams keeping up their 11-year dominance on the tournament.

Ismailia are the only team from Arabic-speaking North Africa still in the competition, which clubs from sub-Saharan Africa last won in 1983.

Only teams from Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have won the continent's top club prize since then but their reign is under severe threat this season.

In the other semifinal, Orlando Pirates of South Africa beat Express of Uganda 1-0 but squandered several gilt-edged opportunities for a bigger margin of victory.

Jerry Skosana scored the only goal seven minutes into the second half.

Algerian international veteran Djamel Menad scored what could prove a vital away goal from JS Kabylie in their 2-1 defeat by Blackpool in Zimbabwe in the African Cup Winners' Cup.

Nigeria's Julius Berger forced a goalless draw away to Maxaquene of Mozambique in the other Cup Winners' Cup semifinal first leg.

In the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Cup, Congo's Inter Club kept up their bizarre record of home defeats.

They were beaten 1-0 by Kaloum Stars of Guinea in Brazzaville on Sunday, their third home defeat in this tournament.

But after a series of unpredictable away performances, including the scalp of defending champions Bendel Insurance of Nigeria, the Congolese cannot be written off.

Kaloum's Guinean international midfielder Abdoul Karim Sylla scored the only goal of the game eight minutes from time.

A penalty by Cicero Baroucha gave Etoile Sahel a slender 1-0 advantage over Tanzania's Mahind in their CAF Cup semifinal first leg.

Majoli, Sabatini jump in rankings



Iva Majoli



Gabriela Sabatini

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Croatia's Iva Majoli leaped into the top 10 of the World Tennis Association (WTA) rankings by winning her second title in a row while Gabriela Sabatini jumped into the top five despite losing in the final.

Majoli beat the Argentine veteran 6-4, 7-6 (7/4) in the

final Sunday at Filderstadt, Germany.

Majoli moved from 11th to ninth, passing Lindsay Davenport and Anke Huber, while Sabatini rose from seventh to fifth, passing Kimiko Date and Jana Novotna.

Steffi Graf and Monica Seles remain co-number ones

with Arantxa Sanchez Vicario listed second under a special WTA ruling following the return of Seles after her 1993 stabbing.

Graf, questioned in a German tax investigation, plays her first event since the U.S. Open this week at Brighton, England.



Milan's George Weah celebrates a goal against Juventus (Reuters photo)

Juventus hit by double trouble

PARIS (AFP) — Juventus' season ran into double trouble on Sunday as the Italian superclub lost its first league game of the season ... then saw two key players sidelined by injury.

Strikers Gianluca Vialli and Fabrizio Ravanelli both limped away from the 2-1 defeat to arch-rivals AC Milan with muscle pulls and are major doubts for Wednesday's European Champions League encounter with Glasgow Rangers of Scotland.

Milan, however, were not in the mood for commiseration on Sunday, consolidating their lead at the top of the Serie A after all but winning the game in the opening quarter-of-an-hour in front of 83,000 fans.

They shrugged off injuries to major names Dejan Savicevic and Roberto Baggio — Demetrio Albertini was also missing through suspension — to take the lead after just six minutes when Marco Simoni fired home a free-kick into the right corner for his first strike of the season.

Then Liberation George Weah, the former Paris Saint Germain striker, skipped his way through the middle of the defence after being put away by Simone to nudge the ball home after 14 minutes.

Alessandro del Piero's 81st minute goal was scant consolation for the visitors, who slipped back to sixth in the table on 11 points, four adrift of the leaders.

Parma went into second place on 13 after a 1-0 home success over Udinese, Alessandro Melli scoring the only goal after 76 minutes, while

third-place Lazio had little problem with bottom club Padova, dispatching them 2-0 with two goals in the final 17 minutes.

In Germany, Bayern Munich were left as bruised as Juventus after suffering their second consecutive defeat in the Bundesliga.

Franz Beckenbauer's men, who had begun the season with seven victories in succession, this time went down 2-1 at home to Borussia Moechengladbach, German international Stefan Effenberg scoring after 20 minutes and Austrian midfielder Andreas Herzog putting through his own net in the 81st minute.

Unhappy French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, told recently by Beckenbauer to stop acting like a whining child, scored a consolation goal for Bayern in injury time.

Reigning champions Borussia Dortmund, who cut Bayern's lead from four to three points, drew 2-2 with Werder Bremen, the team they pipped for the league title in the final match of last season.

If Juventus and Bayern were looking for a role model, they should have looked across the Dutch border at Ajax.

Not only are they leading their league with a 100 per cent record of nine wins out of nine. They also have yet to

concede a goal in 13½ hours of football.

This time they beat Twente Enschede 3-0, with winger Marc Overmars, Holland's midweek hat-trick hero, scoring twice after Finland's Jari Litmanen netted the opener in the 24th minute. Ajax now lead the Dutch pack by five points, with PSV Eindhoven in second after a 4-0 win over Waalwijk.

Spanish league leaders Atletico Madrid beat mid-table Deportivo La Coruna 1-0 to retain their advantage but Johan Cruyff's Barcelona made sure the pressure stayed on the capital club with a 4-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao.

Barcelona's city rivals Espanol also sparked, winning 3-0 at Sevilla to stay third, a point behind their illustrious neighbours.

Meanwhile, in France unfashionable Metz retained their unbeaten status to stay three points clear with a 2-0 win over Bordeaux.

Metz are not exactly flush with household names but Jocelyn Blanchard deserves to become one after scoring a goal in each half, the second a 25-metre thunderbolt.

Title favourites Paris Saint Germain, in contrast stuffed full of stars, could only draw 0-0 with 10-man Lyon. Lyon's skipper and goalkeeper Pascal Olmeta was dismissed after 21 minutes for flooring PSG striker Patrice Loko with a wild tackle outside his area.

Thai Farmers hunt for hat-trick in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Asian Club Championship holders Thai Farmers kicked off their quest for an unprecedented hat-trick of Asian

club titles with an emphatic 6-0 win over Valencia of the Maldives.

Thai farmers, who enjoyed a first round bye, moved

ahead through Sing Totavee in the 15th minute of the game on Sunday, but saved their best for the second half, hammering five goals within the space of 36 minutes.

Midfielder Worrawoot Sirimakha started the goal scoring spree, finding the net in the 50th minute and again 15 minutes later. Sasom Posprasert and Sujja Sirikeat made the most of their chances before an encore from Sing in the 86th minute.

The second leg in Male on Nov. 11 would appear to be a formality for Thai Farmers, whose \$500 per month play-

ers have mesmerised Asian football fans in the past two years with their skilful but uncompromising style.

In other second round first leg action from the Asian Club Championships, Indonesia's Persib edged Paray from the Philippines 2-1 while Chumma from Morea beat Malaysian champions Pahang 3-2 and Saudi Arabia's Al Nasr squeezed through 1-0 against Elimay from Kazakhstan.

3-League champions Verdy Kawasaki have already qualified for the centralised quarter-final tournament that

follows the second round thanks to both a 9-1 home win over Pakistan's Crescent Mills and the Asian Football Confederation's decision to cancel the second leg.

In the Asian Cup Winners' Cup second round first leg, Tehran's Bahman pipped visitors Vostok from Kazakhstan 1-0 in front of 20,000 fans at Azadi Stadium.

In Thailand, home team Rajpracha held off a spirited challenge from Indonesia's Pftokimia Putra to record a 5-4 win, while Al Riad of Saudi Arabia beat Lebanon's Homenmen 2-0 in Tripoli.

Real Madrid continue their recovery

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid continued their recovery on Sunday, battling out a 2-0 win away to lowly Salamanca, despite having midfielder Luis Milla sent off a minute before halftime.

Reigning champions Real are leaving behind their worst start to a season in living memory.

Chilean spearhead Ivan Zambrano shot them ahead after just 12 minutes, but they were reduced to 10 men when Milla was shown a

second yellow card for a deliberate handball.

Salamanca pressed hard in the second half, but Emilio Amavisca wrapped up the three points for Real with a precise chip 16 minutes from the end.

The win lifted Real up to 11th position, 11 points behind leaders Atletico Madrid, who beat Deportivo Coruna 1-0 at home on Saturday.

In second place, two points behind Atletico, come Barce-

lona, whose youngsters thrashed Athletic Bilbao 4-1, also on Saturday.

In third place are Espanol, who triumphed 3-0 away to Sevilla, provoking the sacking of local Portuguese coach Toni Oliveira.

The surprise on Sunday was provided by bottom club Rayo Vallecano. They sacked coach Pedro Zabala on Wednesday and are lining up former Real Madrid midfielder Uli Stielike.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSH
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ A Q 8 7 3 2 ♣ A 10 ♦ A Q 9 4 ♣ 7
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ 2♦ 2♠ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q. 2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A J 8 2 ♣ 8 7 6 3 ♦ K 9 5 ♣ 4 3
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
- Q. 3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A 7 6 2 ♣ A J 8 5 3 ♦ Q 9 ♣ 4 3
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
- Q. 4 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q J 7 6 2 ♣ J 7 6 5 ♦ A 9 9
Partner opens the bidding one heart. What do you respond?
- Q. 5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ Q 9 8 7 4 ♣ K Q J ♦ K J 8 7 2 ♣ 4
The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
1♣ Pass 2♣ Pass
What action do you take?
- Q. 6 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A Q 9 5 2 ♣ 8 5 ♦ A 8 ♣ 10 6 5 4
The bidding has proceeded:
NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST
1♣ Pass 1♠ Pass
What do you bid now?

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CINEMA TEL: 699238

PLAZA

Charles Bronson
in
Death Wish "5"
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam & Yusra
Birds of the Darkness
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:45
CONCORD "2"
Arnold Schwarzeneger...in
Conan The Barbarian
Shows: 3:30, 6, 8:15, 10:15

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Eubank announces retirement

LONDON (R) — Former World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion Chris Eubank announced on Monday that he was quitting the sport.

Eubank's announcement came the day after the death of fellow Briton James Murray who collapsed at the end of a title fight in Glasgow on Friday and never regained consciousness.

Eubank himself was involved in a tragic incident four years ago when his opponent in a WBO fight, Michael Watson, collapsed into a coma after losing the bout.

Watson, also British, had two operations to remove blood clots from the brain. He survived but remains wheelchair-bound.

Eubank, 29, lost his WBO title to Irishman Steve Collins in March. Collins' beat him again in a rematch last month.

"The result of my recent contest with Collins has caused me to look at the various options now available to me and to seek the advice and guidance of my friends and advisors," Eubank said on Monday.

"My almost continuous fight schedule and the difficulties I have had making the weight have all taken their toll and I really need a long rest."

Eubank, an outspoken showman whose posturing and posing in the ring often irritated his opponents, has frequently said he disliked boxing and remained in the sport only to make a living.

He said he now planned to go into business and had been invited to make television and radio appearances.



Chris Eubank

Lassigny wins Rothmans by a half length

TORONTO (AP) — Lassigny, forced to circle the field after a weak start, received a strong ride in the stretch from Pat Day to win the \$1 million Rothmans International by a half length at Woodbine racecourse.

"I actually thought we were out of range to win it at one point," trainer Bill Mott said. "He got off a step slow and I was concerned about that. He only had a couple horses beat at one time."

But at the top of the stretch Sunday, Lassigny surged into contention, then duelled

Mecke the rest of the way in the 2.4-kilometre turf race for 3-year-olds and up.

"We still feel good about this horse and he ran well today," said Mott, who also trains undefeated Cigar.

Lassigny, a son of Gone West and owned by Sultan Mohammed Al Kabeer of Saudi Arabia, earned \$653,250 from the record purse of \$1,088,750. That raised his lifetime earnings to \$906,648 from six wins, a second and three thirds in 17 lifetime starts.

"We didn't get away from

the gate quite as well as I thought we would," Day said. "He kind of hopped... but he settled in comfortably and kind of got his bearings."

"He finished up quite strong. But, I'll tell you, running into the headwind was a bit of a challenge for him. It was a marvellous effort."

Lassigny, who has also run in France, Florida, New York, Maryland, Chicago and Kentucky, went off at 7-1 odds of before an estimated crowd of 15,000 on a day of sun, wind, menacing clouds and driving rain.

He finished in 2:29.45 and returned \$17.40, \$8.10 and \$6.60. Mecke, ridden by Jerry Bailey and also a 7-1 choice, paid \$8.10 and \$7.30. Hasten to Add, sent off at 18-1 under Corey Nakatani, showed at \$11.40.

The 58th running of the race attracted a 15-horse field — six from the United States, five from Canada and two each from France and Britain.

Talloires was fourth, followed by Boyce, Commoner, Volochine, Jet Freighter, Alyow, Next Endeavor,

Born Wild, Charlie's Dewan, Mt. Sassafras, Presenting and Poliglote.

Presenting, the 3-1 favourite, was Never a Factor, nor was Poliglote, the 5-1 second choice, Alyow, the only filly in the race, ran as an entry with Charlie's Dewan.

In an earlier feature, Irish-bred Timarida won the \$355,200 E.P. Taylor Stakes, a 2-kilometre turf race for fillies and mares 3 years old and up. The winner, owned by the Aga Khan, was timed in 2:03.35.

Tax affair costs Graf lucrative Opel contract

BERLIN (AP) — One of tennis star Steffi Graf's main sponsors, the General Motors subsidiary Opel, cancelled a lucrative contract Monday because of the scandal that has put Graf's father in jail on suspicion of tax evasion.

It was the first such setback since mid-summer when tax authorities began investigating the 26-year-old Graf, who as one of Germany's best-known figures had been avidly sought for endorsements and sponsorships.

Opel said it still had full confidence in Graf's personal integrity but it would cancel at the end of this year a contract that gave the world's top woman tennis player 1.7 million marks (\$1.2 million) a year.

Graf, who decided on short notice to play this week in Britain in the Brighton Tournament, has been questioned by prosecutors but does not face immediate arrest, prosecutors said last



Steffi Graf

week. She is, however, a suspect and could eventually be brought to trial. Her father, Peter Graf, has been under arrest since August, accused of failing to report some 50 million marks (\$35.3 million) of her income.

Her tax adviser, Joachim

Eckardt, is also in custody. Opel's supervisory board member Hans Wilhelm Gaeb had been one of Steffi Graf's main defenders as the tax scandal became known, but in recent weeks it became evident that he was unhappy at disclosures of how Graf's financial affairs had been

managed by her father and others.

Opel spokesman Karl Mauer said the company had made known to Graf that its deal with her would be endangered if there were no changes in her "management environment."

A statement issued by

Opel headquarters in Rueselsheim in southern Germany did not refer directly to the tax issue but said Opel had decided "in the current situation" not to extend the contract it had with Graf since 1985 when she was an emerging teenage star.

Graf has said she left management of her finances to her father, and reportedly had no knowledge of where her fortune — estimated at 100 million marks (\$70 million) in the German media — was invested.

Despite the tax scandal and a back problem, Graf has had a great year in competition, winning three majors — the French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open — since the tax authorities began probing her affairs.

She was due to start play Wednesday in Brighton, her first competitive tennis since beating Monica Seles in the U.S. Open final five weeks ago.

Der Spiegel news magazine reports in this week's issue that tax investigators questioned Graf for the second time last Friday, focusing on whether she signed her tax returns.

There have been media reports that an autograph machine was used to sign the returns. If true, that could add falsification of a signature to criminal charges that may be filed.

Spiegel reported that Graf's tax return for 1993 reported 2.7 million marks (\$1.9 million) in income but left out income from three sponsorship deals worth a total of 5.5 million marks (\$3.9 million).

Filipino boxer dies after three days in coma

MANILA (AFP) — Filipino flyweight Roger Espenill has died after sustaining massive brain injuries in a professional bout here, being pronounced dead on the same day as Scottish fighter James Murray in Glasgow.

Espenill, 19, complained of

dizziness after losing a 10-round, non-title bout in suburban Manila late Thursday, and was rushed to a nearby hospital after he collapsed.

Liza Elorde, an official at the fight venue told AFP. On Sunday, doctors pronounced him dead due to a

massive brain haemorrhage, Elorde said.

Murray, 25, had undergone a two-hour operation to remove a blood clot from his brain after being knocked unconscious by fellow Scotsman Drew Docherty in their British bantamweight championship bout on Friday night.

Murray was "clinically dead" on Saturday night, but was not finally pronounced dead until after final tests on Sunday.

Kong views Olympics as tough prospect

NIMES, France (AFP) — China's World Cup winner Kong Linghui made it clear he would have a tougher time at next year's Olympics than he had in winning the world championships on home soil in May.

Kong, who won the men's singles World Cup here on Sunday to add to the world title he won in Tianjin, said: "The Chinese spectators do an incredible amount for the players. Even in China I did not expect to win, but the spectators really got behind U.S."

"It will be much tougher for the Chinese to win in Atlanta."

Should Kong, who beat Germany's 1992 European champion Jorg Rosskopf 18-21, 24-22, 22-20, 21-14 to earn the \$33,000 top prize here, win in Atlanta, Georgia, he would complete an unprecedented treble.

He would become the holder of the world, Olympic and World Cup titles at the

same time. While Kong celebrated, world number six Rosskopf, who won the European Masters Cup in Germany last month, had to be content with the \$17,000 runners-up prize.

Kong, quick on his feet and with a powerful right-handed attacking game, showed tenacity in tight situations throughout the match. The 1994 Asian champion could quite easily have lost 3-0, a fact not overlooked by Rosskopf after the match.

"I had a good chance to win the match 3-0, so I'm not very happy at the moment. But when I wake up tomorrow morning, I think I will be very happy with my second place," Rosskopf said.

Lefthander Rosskopf, 26, never trailed in the first game. Rosskopf raced to an 18-12 lead and converted the game 21-18 when Kong overhit a forehand.

Rosskopf, however,

known for a lightning fast backhand, good physical fitness and steady nerves, missed a chance to grab an invaluable 2-0 lead.

European Masters Cup champion Rosskopf led 21-20 and 22-21, but on each occasion he was let down by his forehand as he netted twice.

Yet another forehand error by Rosskopf on the receive of service brought Kong the game 24-22 to level at 1-1.

Disaster struck Rosskopf in the third game as his forehand again let him down. Rosskopf led 20-14, but then lost eight consecutive points — five from forehand errors, two from backhand errors and a Kong forehand winner — to lose the set 22-20.

Rosskopf's also squandered the advantage of five consecutive services from his 20-15 lead.

Rosskopf's head dropped in the fourth set. A missed forehand on Kong's first match point brought the

Chinaman the set at 21-14 for a 3-1 win in 48 minutes.

China have now won the title nine times in the 16-year history of this 16-man invitation event — the most prestigious annual tournament in the sport as the world championships are every two years and the Olympics are every four years.

Guo Yuehua won in 1980 and 1982, Jiang Jialiang won in 1984, Chen Xinhua, who now plays for England, won for China in 1985, Chen Longcan won a year later, and Teng Yi won in 1987.

Then Ma Wenge won in both 1989 and 1992.

China's Liu Guoliang earlier on Sunday took third place.

Liu, the world runner-up, beat France's defending champion Jean-Philippe Gatien 22-20, 17-21, 21-18, 27-21, 21-18, to earn \$12,000 and a place on the podium. Gatien, the 1993 world champion, earned \$9,000.

PARIS (R) — The names of AC Milan, Bayern Munich and Liverpool are written large in the history of European soccer.

Those of Strasbourg, Raith Rovers and Brondby — their respective rivals in Tuesday's UEFA Cup second round, first leg matches — barely make a footnote.

But the three giants of the game, all European champions at least three times each, would be unwise to view their trips to Alsace, Scotland and Denmark merely as smaller stages on which to parade their vast talents.

Pride rarely precedes anything other than a fall as Milan's neighbours Internazionale discovered to their cost in the first round against Swiss minnows Lucarno and as Manchester United found out against little-fancied Russians Rotor Volgograd.

Strasbourg, who reached the UEFA Cup by the back door of the Intertoto Summer Cup, may be quaking in their boots at the thought of playing host to mighty Milan but they are putting on a show of bravado anyway.

Trainer Jacky Duguerepoux said: "People must stop talking about this match as if it's a party. It's not a party. It's a match like any other. We must not be overwhelmed nor overawed. True, there's no comparison between the two clubs. But I'm not being presumptuous when I say football is a game

where great exploits can happen."

Milan, coasting on top of the Italian league after Sunday's 2-1 win over Juventus, are without two of their most celebrated forwards, Dejan Savicevic and Roberto Bagio.

Both are injured but their absence hardly leaves the Italians a blunt force up front as Liberian George Weah and Marco Simone both showed with superb goals against Juventus.

Bayern Munich had a warning that there are few easy rides in the UEFA Cup when they lost at home to Lokomotive Moscow in the first round before pulling themselves together for a 5-0 away win.

Striker Juergen Klinsmann said the German league leaders would not take Raith Rovers lightly. "Every game in Europe is very difficult and we expect it will be like that in Edinburgh," he said.

Raith, recently promoted to the Scottish first division and in the UEFA competition only as league cup winners, collapsed in defence on Saturday when they lost 4-2 to Hearts.

Manager Jimmy Nicholl, the 38-year-old former Manchester United player and experienced Northern Ireland international, may be tempted to turn out himself for the second time this season to help quell the threat of Klinsmann and co.

Liverpool are taking no chances before their visit to Brondby and have been fully briefed on their rivals by their Danish reserve keeper Michael Stensgaard.

Brondby have moved the match from their own 22,000-capacity ground to Copenhagen's Parkson Stadium where 40,000 Danes will be cheering wildly for an upset.

Two of the other biggest clubs in Europe — Barcelona and Benfica — receive visits from underdogs who plan to rattle the soccer establish-

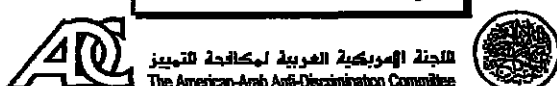
ment.

The Catalans take on Vitoria Guimaraes of Portugal at the Nou Camp and Benfica are at home to Dutch side Roda JC Kerkrade.

Probably the most attractive pairing of the round pits Leeds United against PSV Eindhoven.

The English side is hoping influential Scottish midfielder Gary McAllister will overcome an ankle injury so he can provide the supply of ammunition needed by Ghanaian striker Tony Yeboah.

ACTION ALERT



The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee / Regional Office for ME - Amman calls upon all peace loving members and organizations to pass their condemnation on U.S. Senator Bob Dole's new bill requiring the U.S. to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Please contact :
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Washington, DC 20500
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U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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Dubai-Amman	Departs: Saturdays & Tuesdays at 14:45	Arrives at 18:15
	Departs: Thursdays at 14:45	Arrives at 18:15



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Tawarneh rejects fears of U.S. and Israeli control of Mideast economy

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian Ambassador to the U.S. Faysel Tawarneh on Monday dismissed fears that the U.S. and Israel would inevitably have hegemony over the economies of the region and said that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference's objective was to open the door for economic competitiveness.

In a Worldnet dialogue on the Oct. 29-31 MENA conference, Dr. Tawarneh said that economic development, and not the proposed Middle East development bank, was MENA's central issue.

Responding to questions from participants in Bonn, Tokyo, Madrid, Paris and London who expressed fears of Israeli economic domination and lamented at a lack of European support for the MENA gathering, Mr. Tawarneh stressed that the summit would be open for all the countries of the region and others worldwide.

"We are opening the region for economic development. We have no intention of giving any country any political leverage," he said. "We would like to see American-European competitiveness."

Asked if Israel would dominate all regional projects, Dr. Tawarneh said that "there will be regional projects that might not involve Israel."

The U.S. under-secretary of state for economic, business and agricultural affairs, Joan Spero, emphasised that there was strong European-American cooperation, and ruled out Israeli ambitions to monopolise the region's economies.

"We keep hearing comments that Israel will play a major role in the summit... Israel can play a lot but they are very sensitive," she said. "They don't want to take the centre-stage. They're interested in the development of the region as a whole."

Ms. Spero emphasised that there would be broad and effective participation at the summit from all countries. While Europeans' show hesitation to participate in the establishment of the Middle East development bank, Ms. Spero insisted that there was no conflict between the U.S. and the European Union in this regard.

"The European countries have not decided yet whether they will participate (in the bank) or not but there is no inherent conflict between the U.S. and Europe," she said. "We are working very closely with the Europeans. The Middle East is of importance to both of us."

Dr. Tawarneh denied there was competition between Jordan and Egypt over the venue of the bank and said other projects and activities were to be launched in and from Jordan.

"The venue was not the main issue, the main issue was the shape and structure of the bank," he said. He added that there was lots of talk on the venue but that expert groups recommended to the summit that the bank be based in Cairo.

"I don't see political competition. There will be different venues for different activities," he added.

Ms. Spero insisted, however, that the bank, which is expected to be based in Cairo, was not the summit's main concern.

"Business is the main issue," she said.

Ms. Spero as well as Dr. Tawarneh voiced optimism that the outcome of the summit would be highly positive and said they expected effective participation and contribution from governments as well as from financial institutions and the private sector in particular.

"I'm very optimistic," Dr. Tawarneh said. "We are also looking forward to work closely with the Europeans to put the region on the right path for peace."

Jordan ready to host Arab-Iranian dialogue

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday discussed with a senior Iranian official, Ahmad Haj Hussein, the prospects of holding Arab-Iranian seminars in 1996 on topics of mutual concern in light of regional developments.

The Crown Prince and Mr. Hussein also reviewed the nature of topics to be tackled at cultural meetings planned by Iranian and Arab intellectuals.

The Crown Prince said that Jordan was ready to host meetings and seminars that are designed to build bridges of cooperation among Muslim nations and remove differences in views among them.

Mr. Hussein, who attended a seminar organised by the centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan, is the general director of the Institute for International and Political Studies at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Hussein also met officials from the Arab Thought Forum to discuss prospects for holding Arab-Iranian meetings and the topics to be discussed, including regional security and outstanding issues between Iran and the Arab World.

Khatib thanks King for ending crisis of camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — The charge d'affaires at the Palestinian Embassy in Amman, Omar Khatib, on Monday thanked His Majesty King Hussein for ending the controversy over the Palestinian refugee camps following reports that the owners of the land on which the camps had been built should be restored to their owners in accordance with a court ruling.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Khatib said that the King's "wisdom is a source of reassurance and satisfaction for the Palestinian people living in the camps, who are treated on equal footing with the Jordanian citizens in terms of rights and duties."

In a statement to the press on Saturday the King said there was no need for worry over the issue of the ownership of lands on which Palestinian refugees camps were built and that Jordan would not expel Palestinians from its territory.

The government said earlier that it would intercede with the owners of the lands and assured refugees that they would not be evacuated.

Minister of Justice Hisham Tell said Monday that the court's ruling would not be implemented through demolishing homes or evicting their occupants. The government would find substitute solutions that would guarantee the rights of the landowners and reassure camp residents over their future until a final settlement to the issue can be found.

The minister said that the question would be settled by the ministries of justice and finance. This will take place by either renewing a lease on the land or through the government paying compensation to the landowners, he said.

Mr. Khatib referred to the question of Palestinian citizens holding Jordanian passports and voiced appreciation to the King for halting the withdrawing of permanent passports and replacing them with temporary passports for the Palestinians living in Jordan.

He said that the decision had further reassured the Palestinians and reflected in deed King Hussein's continued support for the Palestinian people.



FESTIVAL: Palestinians on Sunday participate in the first outdoor festival organised in East Jerusalem since 1967. The festival was organised by the Palestinian National Theatre, which used to hold the event indoors. Delegations from the U.S. and other countries also took part (AFP photo)

Turkish coalition reborn

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller announced Monday that she had struck a deal resurrecting a right-left coalition whose collapse under a month ago sparked a bitter fight for her own political survival.

She told a news conference she had reached an accord "in principle" to ally the social democratic Republican People's Party (CHP) of Deniz Baykal with her own conservative True Path Party (DYP).

Ms. Ciller also moved to take her own party in hand, expelling 10 deputies who had voted against it or abstained in a parliamentary confidence vote on Sunday, which she lost.

But, refusing to accept defeat as she fought tenaciously to remain in power, she then turned back to the CHP which she had fallen out nearly four weeks before.

However, there was still some uncertainty over Ms. Ciller's exact position in the wake of the confidence vote defeat after she went to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel and tendered her resignation.

Hrawi agrees to seek three more years in office

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, whose term runs out next month, agreed Monday to seek another three years in office under a constitutional amendment backed by the government.

"I must agree to your wishes and those of the representatives of the people as well as act according to my patriotic principles," Mr. Hrawi said in response to requests to extend his term from both the cabinet and parliament.

"I thank you for the trust you placed in me, this trust which encourages me to continue to assume my responsibilities towards peace, reconstruction, liberation and the return of people displaced by the war," he said.

Prime Minister Rafik Hariri said the government was unanimous in its proposal that Mr. Hrawi submit a bill to amend the constitution and allow him to extend his mandate.

Parliament is expected to meet Thursday to approve the amendment which automatically would add another three years to Mr. Hrawi's presidency.

Under the constitution, parliament elects Lebanon's president, who must be a Maronite Christian, for a non-renewable period of six years. Any amendment must be backed by two-thirds of parliament's 128 members.

Mr. Hariri praised the president's achievements and said his mandate should be extended for several reasons but mainly to expand cooperation with Syria, the key power-broker in Lebanon where it deploys 35,000 troops.

He said it was even more important now to bolster Syrian-Lebanese cooperation because of the deadlocked peace negotiations with Israel.

The extension of Mr. Hrawi's mandate has been the cause of political bickering for months. But last week Syrian President Hafez Al Assad said he supported an extension of Mr. Hrawi's mandate to ensure stability.

Parliamentary Speaker Nabih Berri on Monday stressed the need to maintain a "high degree of coordination between Lebanon and

Column

Powell is 'a distant cousin of queen'

LONDON (AFP) — General Colin Powell, former top U.S. military commander and a potential candidate for the U.S. presidency, is a distant cousin of Queen Elizabeth II, a genealogy expert said here Monday. Gen. Powell, son of Jamaican immigrants, can also claim hereditary linkage to U.S. Presidents George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and George Bush, said Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, a kind of who's who of nobility. Mr. Brooks-Baker said research showed Gen. Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is a direct descendant of the Coote family, a line of Irish military baronets. General Sir Eyre Coote, when he was governor of Jamaica, sired a child with a black slave girl named Sally, who was Colin Powell's great, great grandmother, said Mr. Brooks-Baker. Through Sir Eyre, Gen. Powell is related to most of the great ancient families of Britain, including Britain's royal family, and to royalty and nobility throughout Europe, he said. "Distant cousins of Gen. Powell include the queen, the Princess of Wales and Queen Elizabeth the queen mother, and all British dukes with the exception of the Duke of Westminster," said Mr. Brooks-Baker. "This is an example of the royalty and leadership gene in action," he said. As for Sir Eyre, whose dalliance with a slave girl set the leadership gene rolling, he was dismissed from the British army in 1815 for "sexual impropriety."

Cheers, boos at end of Wagner's new-style Ring

LONDON (AP) — A relentlessly modern staging of Richard Wagner's Ring with the hero, Siegfried, in shirt-sleeves and heroine Brunnhilde wearing a brown paper bag over her head ended in uproar at the Royal Opera House. A 20-minute frenzy of booing and cheering greeted The Twilight Of The Gods, the climax of the four-opera cycle, Saturday night. However, admirers of this new-style production of the struggle between gods, giants and dwarves over a golden ring that gives power to rule the world had the edge in the Covent Garden audience. The loudest cheers were for Bernard Haitink, the Royal Opera's Dutch music director, who conducted all four operas in the cycle, which was launched in October 1994. Haitink slipped on the steeply raked stage as he took a bow but managed to keep upright. Boos were directed at the production team headed by Britons Richard Jones and designer Nigel Lowery. Jones evaded reporters.

Sisters make suicide leap from H. Kong highrise

HONG KONG (AFP) — Two teenaged sisters leaped to their deaths from highrise public housing block in the latest suicide by troubled youngsters in Hong Kong, a police spokesman said Monday. Chan Wai-Ling, 16, and her sister Wai-Han, 15, embraced and leapt from the 19th floor of the block in the Yuen Long district Sunday despite desperate appeals from firemen and police. The girls reportedly tried to hang themselves in a stairwell earlier but were stopped by a neighbour who alerted police.

Paris says it will press Algeria for democracy

PARIS (R) — France is to press Algeria to organise legislative and local polls following presidential elections set for Nov. 16, Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette said in an interview published on Monday.

However, he insisted that Paris was not interfering in Algeria's internal affairs and denied that coming talks between French President Jacques Chirac and Algerian head of state Liamine Zoual constituted endorsement of Mr. Zoual's candidacy.

France "is paying attention to the manner in which these (presidential) elections are being carried out, just as it will to the pursuit of the democratic process, to the organisation of legislative and local elections meant to give a voice to the Algerian people," Mr. De Charette told the French daily Le Parisien.

France is walking a thin line in Algeria, under pressure from Algiers to stand firm in its support and from the fundamentalists to cut all ties to the government.

Militant fundamentalists opposed to French support for the authorities have claimed responsibility for a string of seven bombing attacks in France that have killed seven people and wounded more than 140 since July.

The bombings have coincided with an escalation of civil violence in Algeria itself ahead of the presidential poll.

Lionel Jospin, leader of France's opposition Socialist Party, said on Sunday the meeting of Mr. Chirac and Mr. Zoual was a bad idea and should be put off until after Nov. 16.

"I regret this meeting will take place. I think it is not the right moment," he told French television TF1.

"France, which is in a very difficult position, notably

with regards to terrorism, should not be seen as poking its nose into the Algerian violence," Mr. Jospin said.

"De Charette denied that Mr. Chirac's talks with Mr. Zoual later this month in New York meant that Paris was taking sides.

"This would be the opposite of what we intend," he said.

"There is a debate in Algeria. Not everyone is in agreement on the organisation of the presidential elections. France will listen to all sides, but it will not take part in this debate," Mr. De Charette said.

Mr. Zoual hopes the presidential poll will put an end to civil strife that has torn the country. More than 30,000 people are estimated to have died since 1991, when Algeria's military-backed authorities cancelled general elections that fundamentalist Muslims were poised to win.

Four men including Mr. Zoual will be on the ballot in next month's election.

But there will be none from the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which had swept to an almost unassailable lead in 1991 when the authorities scrapped the vote at the last minute.

Asked how the dialogue in Algeria could be considered democratic without the fundamentalists' participation, Mr. De Charette said he could not answer without becoming involved in Algeria's domestic affairs.

"But you must understand that France will always be ready to encourage the widest possible dialogue with those who reject violence and terrorism," he added.

Mr. De Charette said France would continue to give Algeria economic aid but reiterated denials that France was providing Algiers with police or military equipment used by the authorities against extremist guerrillas.

Sporadic fighting outside Kabul

KABUL (Agencies) — Sporadic fighting continued Monday on the southern fringes of Kabul between forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the Taliban militia trying to capture the Afghan capital.

Kabul itself was calm and life remained normal inside the city, witnesses said. The frontlines of the besieged city were also reported to be stable.

Residents and witnesses said Kabul's Karte Se and Karte Shahr suburbs were hit by several rockets on Sunday. Six people were killed and 16 injured, Radio Kabul said. Some shellfire was heard Monday but there were no immediate reports of any casualties.

Taliban sources said fighting around Kabul had slowed since Sunday and insisted that the militia was consolidating its gains.

"They have captured a lot of area in less than a week and they need full preparation before entering Kabul," an Afghan intellectual in Islamabad said.

Other Afghan sources attributed the toll in fighting to talks now underway between the Taliban and officials of the four-party Supreme Coordination Council of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (SCCIRA).

The council includes ex-Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction and the National Movement of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostum, both of whom have established a loose alliance in a common bid to unseat Mr. Rabbani.

Ethiopia takes Sudan case to Security Council

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali has informed the Security Council of Ethiopia's demand for Sudan to extradite three suspects in a failed bid to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, according to a statement released Monday.

In a letter dated Sept. 14 and addressed to the Security Council, Dr. Ghali said Ethiopia would defer further action until it had ascertained what progress could be made

by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

"The concerned authorities of Ethiopia have concluded that the terrorist assault on the motorcade of His Excellency President Hosni Mubarak on 26 June in Addis Ababa, although the work of members of Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, was an operation supported, assisted, and facilitated by the security organs of Sudan," he said.

Dr. Ghali cited a letter from Ethiopian Foreign Minister Seyoum Mesfin

and an enclosed statement from the OAU.

According to the Ethiopian authorities, weapons used in the aborted attempt to kill Mr. Mubarak have been clearly traced to Sudanese security forces and diplomatic covers were apparently used.

Mr. Mubarak is to take part in a meeting next week of 150 heads of state and government gathering for celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, despite continued death

threats from radical groups.

Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir was initially scheduled to attend the gathering, but his name failed to appear on a list of leaders to address the General Assembly.

The Sudanese mission to the United Nations has informed U.N. staff that Lieutenant-General Bashir would not attend but would instead be represented by his foreign minister, a U.N. spokesman said.

Aideed forces firmly in control of Baidoa

BAIDOA, Somalia (R) — Forces of faction leader Mohammed Farah Aideed firmly control Somalia's former "city of death" but a row over looting is keeping out aid agencies that brought it back to life.

Baidoa, the southern farming town that was the centre of Somalia's famine in 1992, was busy and appeared at peace at the weekend, well under the thumb of "technical" battlewagons one month after its capture by General Aideed's Somali Liberation Army (SLA).

Technicals, four-wheel-drive vehicles bristling with weapons, guarded the centre, key buildings, the airport as well as the entrance from the capital Mogadishu, 245 kilometres to the northeast.

"In the whole region we have enough technicals to make peace here, where it is appropriate," said Hussein Aideed, a son of the leader who was elected president of Somalia in June but is not internationally recognised.

Streets were packed with taxis and shoppers, and a teacher organised a demonstration by 60 children who chanted in support of Gen. Aideed.

We had a skirmish on Wednesday with the Lisan and their allies who tried to cause people to flee but didn't succeed. Numerous people were hurt," he added.

The Lisan is the sub-clan militia forced out by Gen. Aideed's surprise thrust from his south Mogadishu stronghold to extend his control to Baidoa.

"But the city now as usual is calm," Hussein told Reuters. The Reuters team was the first foreign news organisation to reach Baidoa since the attack and the evacuation of 20 international aid workers caught during the assault and held by Gen. Aideed's forces for several days.

Hussein, 30 and a former U.S. military reservist, declined to say how many were killed during the Lisan counter-attack last Wednesday.

Travellers said at least 20 bodies were left at the edges of Baidoa and at least 13 wounded. Aideed gunmen were flown to the capital for treatment as the road was insecure.

A commander of the hitherto-unknown Rahanweyn resistance army told the British Broadcasting Cor-

poration nine of Gen. Aideed's militiamen were killed in the Baidoa area on Saturday by angry clan fighters, who had lost a dozen dead in the same attacks.

Starvation on the rise

AN AVERAGE of five children are dying of starvation-related diseases every day in the Hirran region of Somalia north of Mogadishu, local officials said Monday.

Abdi Osman Aden, a relief and rehabilitation officer for the faction of the Hawadle clan, said the children had been dying at that rate for the past three weeks.

Farmers and nomads returned to the region recently after having fled inter-clan fighting, but without seeds, fertiliser or tools. The people of Beletwein, the main town in the region, pledged that they would guarantee the security of any aid workers arriving to help the children.

Officials said Gen. Aideed, who in 1993 evaded a U.S.-led manhunt during the ill-fated United Nations operation in Somalia that ended in March, was too busy to see journalists.

Critics of his government said he overextended himself by seizing Baidoa and now he had to stay there to ensure that it remained in his hands.

Hussein Aideed said: "We are taking food and medicine from the (aid agency) warehouses to distribute to regional authorities, the hospital and orphanage... this is done by our goodwill."

The main aid agency warehouse centre in Baidoa was guarded by seven technicals and officials said Hussein had the keys.

Asked whether this distribution was in cooperation with the remaining Somali staff of U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) stuck in Baidoa, Hussein said it was not.

Aid workers say equipment worth an estimated \$300,000 was looted from compounds during Gen. Aideed's takeover of Baidoa, which was once the showcase for U.N. and NGO work in Somalia.